

#1

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FOR
10

COVER A

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ASPEN COMICS!

frank MASTROMAURO
jonathan MARKS
beth SOTELO
josh REED

aspencomics.com



SHRUGGED 2





SHRUGGED : VOLUME II

NEW BODY TO FEAR

ISSUE
1

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DRAWING BY:
JONATHAN MARKS AND
MICAH GUNNELL

LETTERING BY:
JOSH REED

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BETH SOTELO



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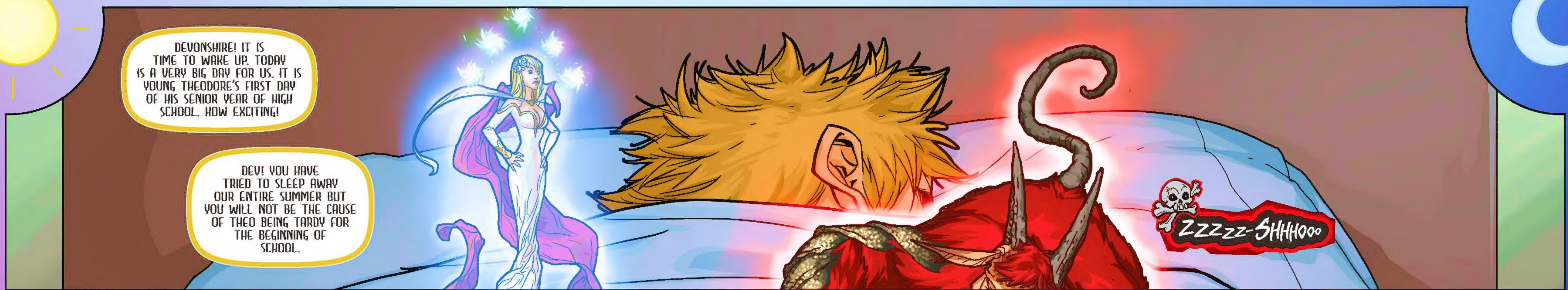
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DEVONSHIRE! IT IS TIME TO WAKE UP. TODAY IS A VERY BIG DAY FOR US. IT IS YOUNG THEODORE'S FIRST DAY OF HIS SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL. HOW EXCITING!

DEV! YOU HAVE TRIED TO SLEEP AWAY OUR ENTIRE SUMMER BUT YOU WILL NOT BE THE CAUSE OF THEO BEING TARDY FOR THE BEGINNING OF SCHOOL.

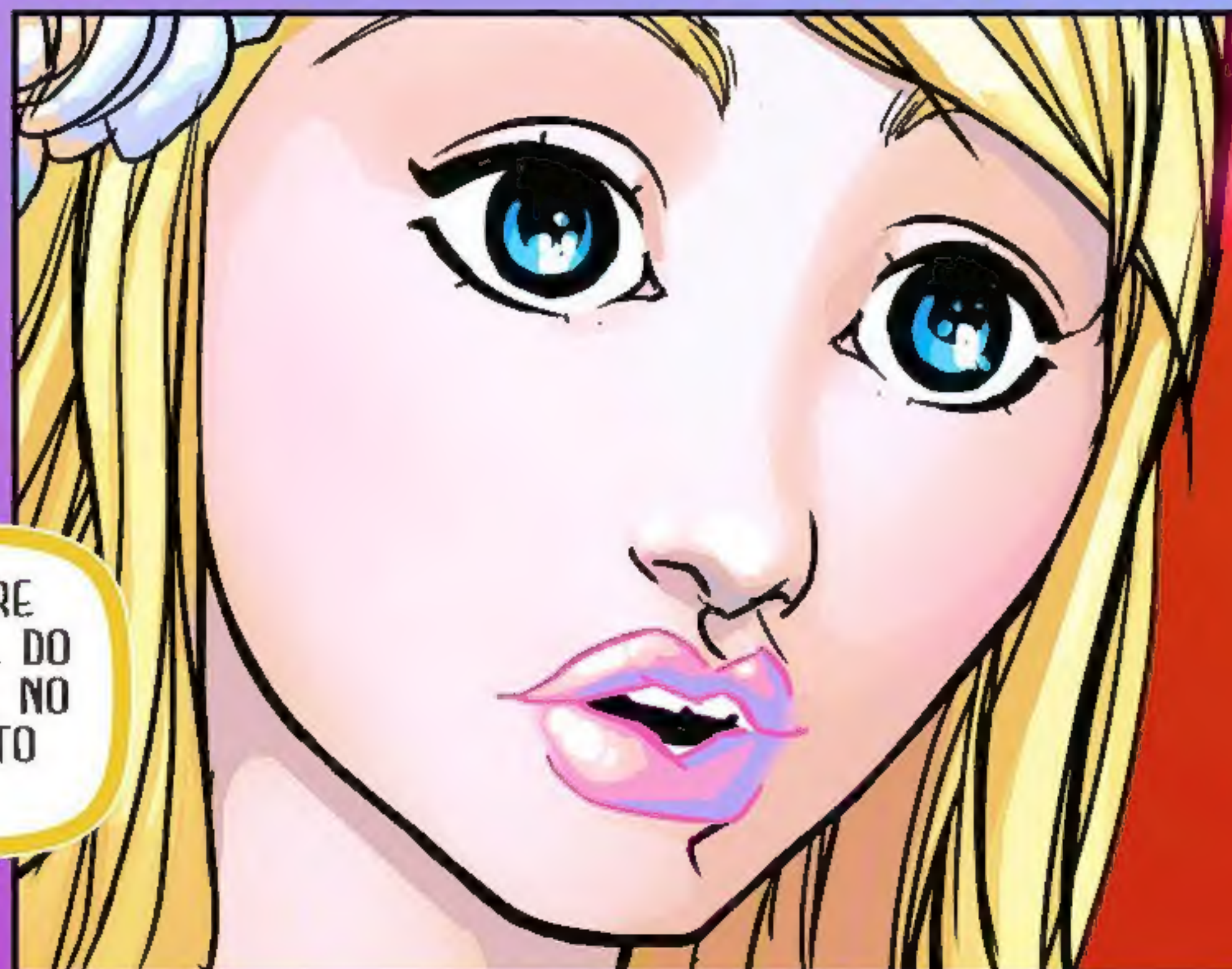


NOW WAKE UP!

OK... I'M UP, I'M UP! BRING THE DECIBELS DOWN A NOTCH WILL YA?



IT'S NOT AS IF THE KID ISN'T GONNA ACE HIS LAST YEAR OF THIS SCHOOL THING ANYWAY. HE'S AN EDUCATIONAL ROCK STAR!



I AM SURE THEO WILL DO JUST FINE, NO THANKS TO YOU.



YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN HIM INTO A LOT OF TROUBLE WITH SOME OF THE STUNTS YOU HAVE PULLED DURING HIS CLASSROOM STUDIES.



ME?!? WHAT A LOAD OF CROCK!



YOU'VE PLAYED MS. HIGH AND MIGHTY BEFORE AS WELL, REMEMBER ANGE? I SURE DO!

YOU TOOK T FOR A WILD RIDE.

OF COURSE I REMEMBER. THAT WAS QUITE AN EXPERIENCE, ONE THAT I WOULD NOT LIKE TO REPEAT. I AM JUST GLAD IT KEPT THEODORE SAFE.

YOU SPEND TOO MUCH TIME WORRYING ABOUT THE KID'S SAFETY.

HE NEEDS TO LIVE A LITTLE!

LIKE WHEN WE ALL WENT ON THAT UNEXPECTED TRIP TO PERSPECTA. NOW THAT WAS A CRAZY TIME!

YOUR RECOLLECTION OF THAT EVENT IS VERY MUCH SKEWED IN MY OPINION, DEVONSHIRE. WE WERE COMPLETELY SEPARATED FROM THEO FOR PETE'S SAKE.

I CANNOT IMAGINE HOW HE MUST HAVE FELT. ALL ALONE, FRIGHTENED AND SCARED.

WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE FOR HIM.

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR HIM. IT'S A TOUGHER COOKIE THAN YOU THINK.

HECK, HE'S CHanneled OUR POWERS ALMOST BETTER THAN US. THE KID SHOULD STAR IN HIS OWN COMIC BOOK.

YES, HE IS A STRONG SOUL. WE HAVE HELPED TO RAISE HIM WELL.

I WILL ADMIT YOUR FORTITUDE AND BRASHNESS HAVE AIDED IN THAT ENDEAVOR. YOU HAVE A UNIQUE ABILITY TO PERSEVERE. EVEN AGAINST INSURMOUNTABLE ODDS.

DEFEATING
EMBER AND SLIVE
WAS NO EASY
FEAT.

MAN I
REALLY HATE THAT
BITCH.

DEV!!

yeah,
yeah. ya know,
you're no slouch
yourself.

and you got
a mean left hook
ya wily southpaw. you
were the one who laid
ember out on her
ass good!

MUST YOU ALWAYS
USE SUCH LANGUAGE? I
DO APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT
THOUGH. I AM NOT QUITE
FOND OF HER, EITHER.

WITH THOSE ADVERSE
INFLUENCES NO LONGER
INFECTING PERSPECTA AND A
NEW LEADER IN CHARGE NOW,
OUR PEOPLE'S FUTURE IS
LOOKING BRIGHTER THAN
EVER.

AND WITH MY
NEWLY APPOINTED
ELYSIAN RANKING, I WILL
BE ABLE TO HELP BETTER
GUIDE AND DIRECT THEO'S
TRANSITION INTO HIS
NEXT STAGE OF
ADOLESCENCE.

TOGETHER
WE WILL TEACH HIM
BETTER RESPONSIBILITIES
AND VALUES. EVERYTHING
A BRIGHT YOUNG MAN
NEEDS!

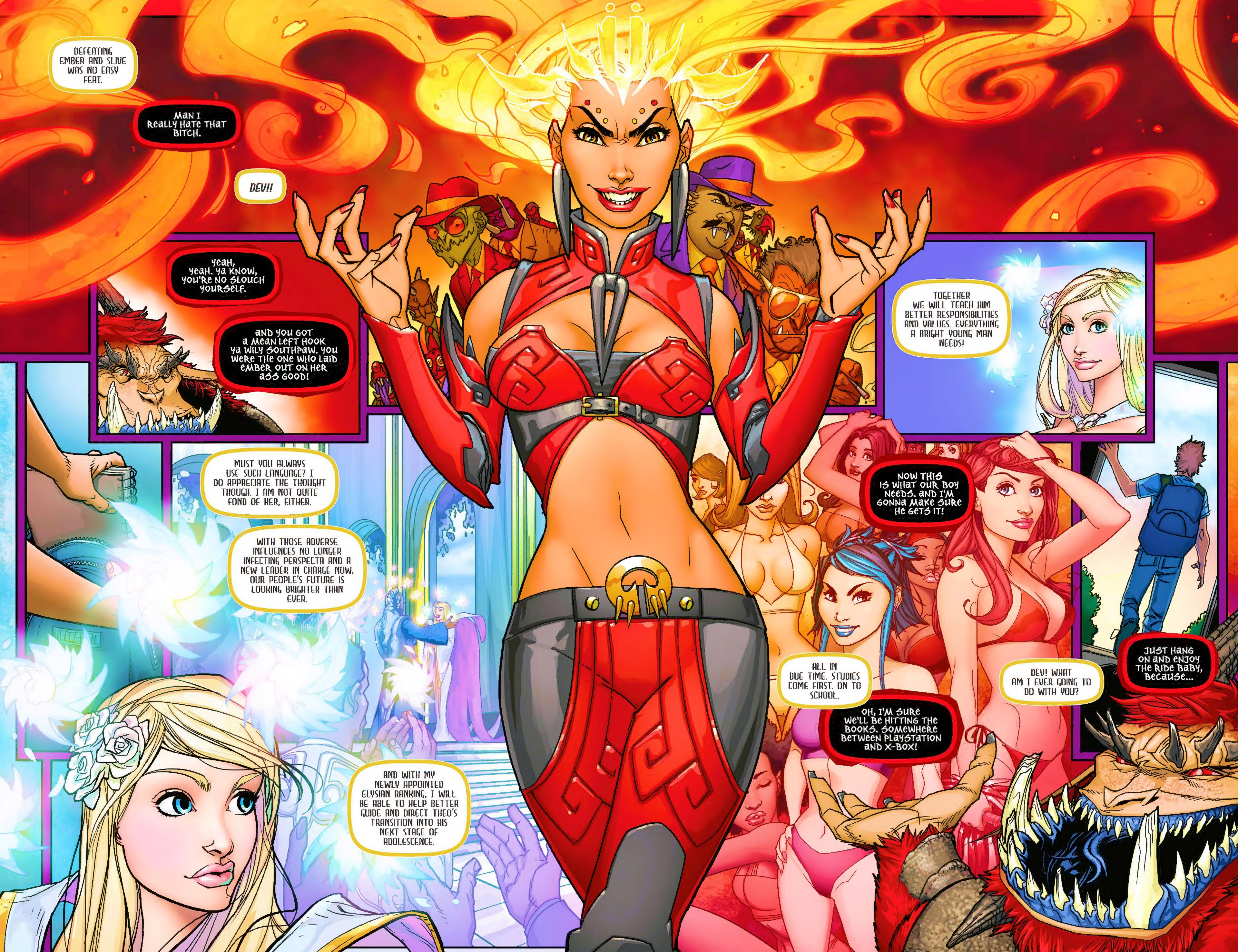
NOW THIS
IS WHAT OUR BOY
NEEDS. AND I'M
GONNA MAKE SURE
HE GETS IT!

ALL IN
DUE TIME. STUDIES
COME FIRST. ON TO
SCHOOL.

OH, I'M SURE
WE'LL BE HITTING THE
BOOKS. SOMEWHERE
BETWEEN PLAYSTATION
AND X-BOX!

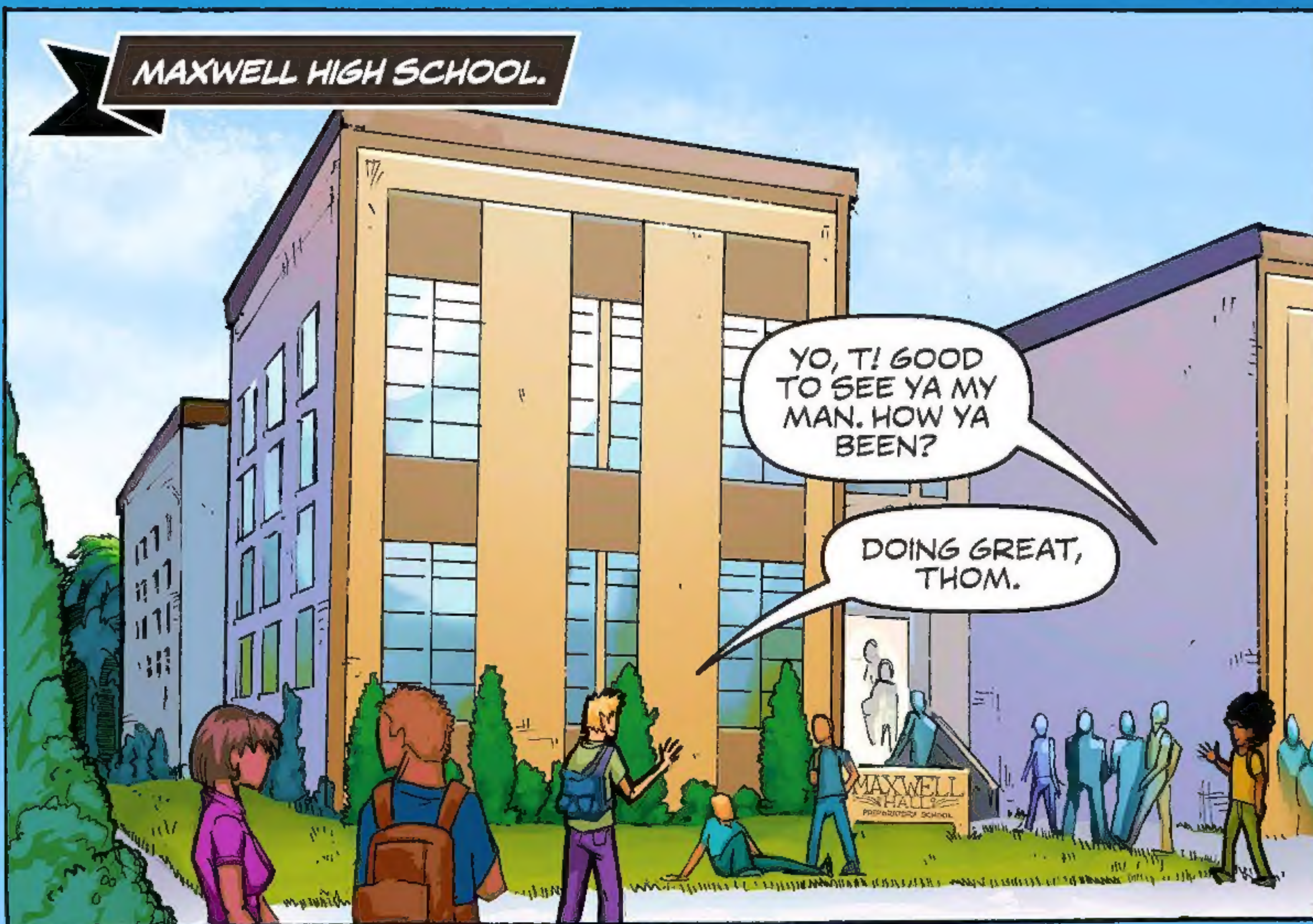
DEV! WHAT
AM I EVER GOING TO
DO WITH YOU?

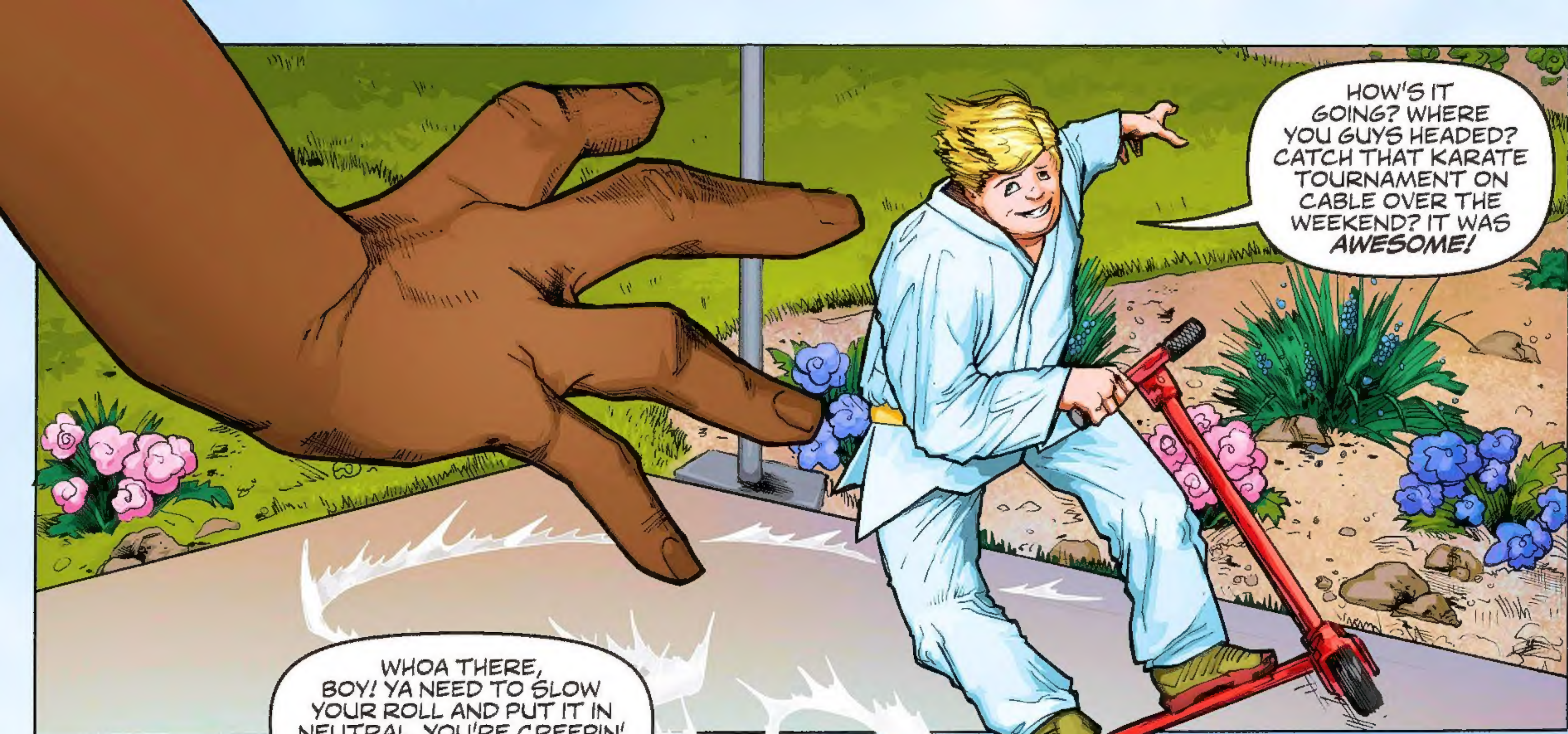
JUST HANG
ON AND ENJOY
THE RIDE BABY,
because...





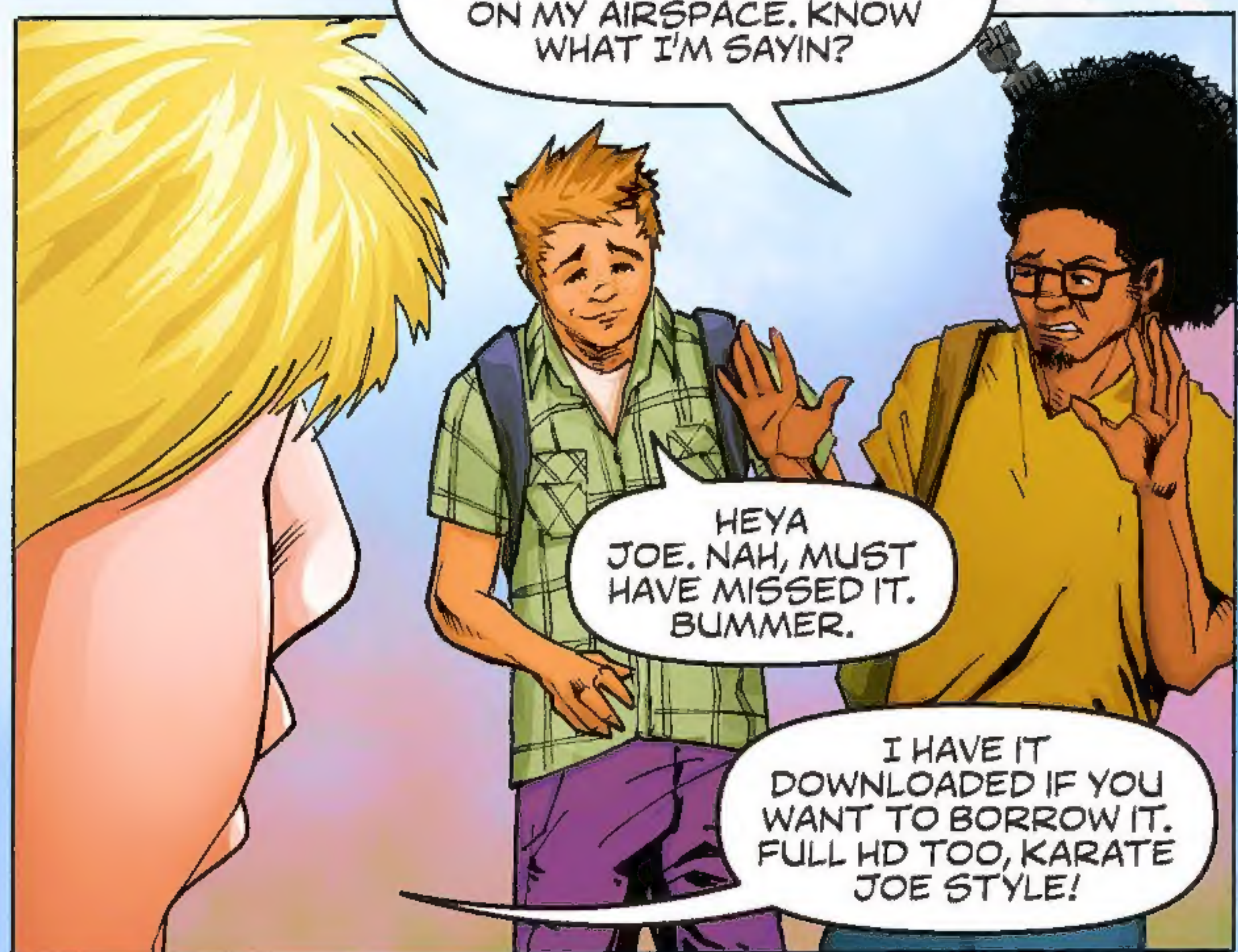
...WE'RE
BACK!





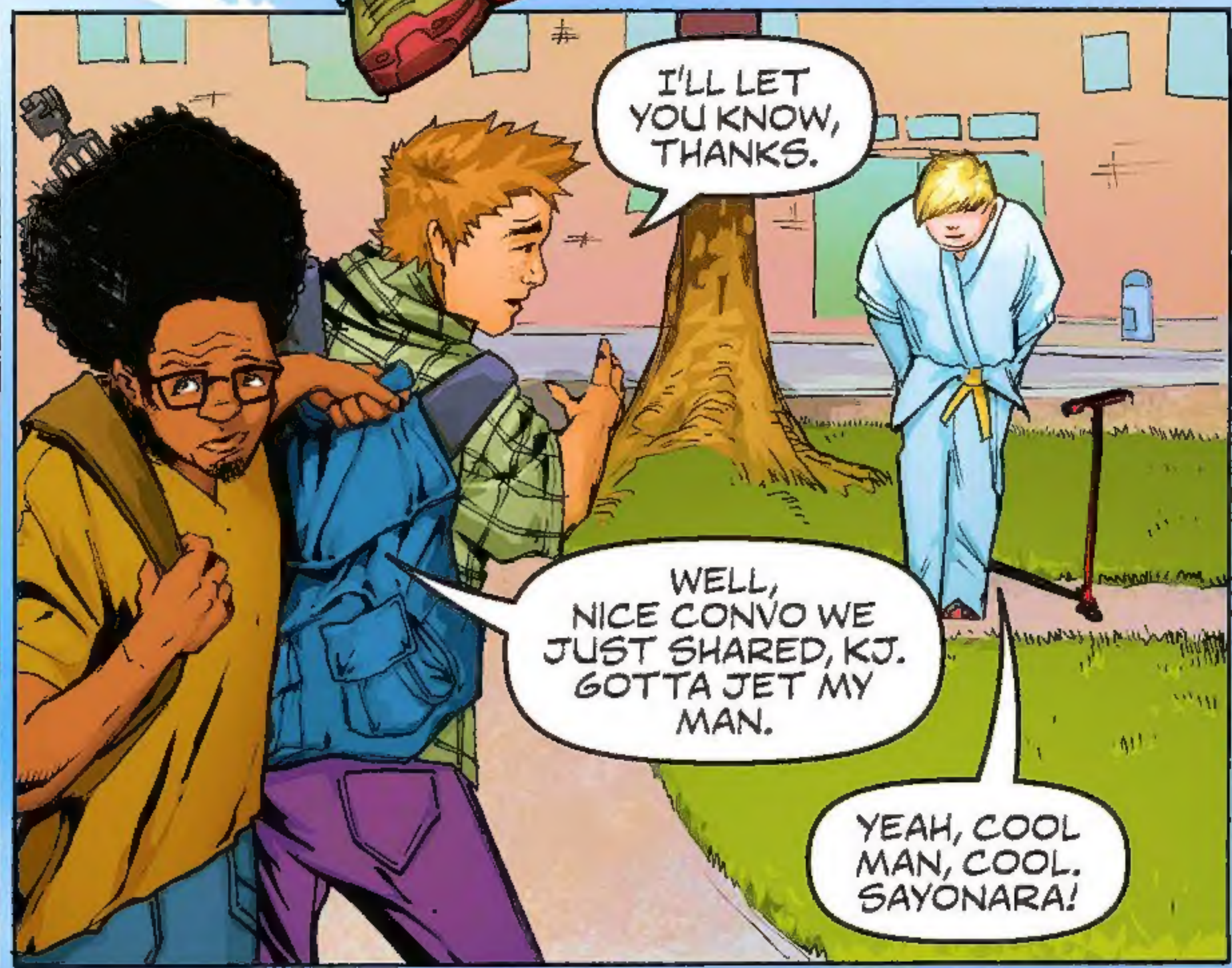
HOW'S IT GOING? WHERE YOU GUYS HEADED? CATCH THAT KARATE TOURNAMENT ON CABLE OVER THE WEEKEND? IT WAS AWESOME!

WHOA THERE, BOY! YA NEED TO SLOW YOUR ROLL AND PUT IT IN NEUTRAL. YOU'RE CREEPIN' ON MY AIRSPACE. KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?



HEYA JOE. NAH, MUST HAVE MISSED IT. BUMMER.

I HAVE IT DOWNLOADED IF YOU WANT TO BORROW IT. FULL HD TOO, KARATE JOE STYLE!



I'LL LET YOU KNOW, THANKS.

WELL, NICE CONVO WE JUST SHARED, KJ. GOTTA JET MY MAN.

YEAH, COOL MAN, COOL. SAYONARA!

He's an absolute NUTBALL. always getting his CHINAPANESE all MIXED-UP. FIND AN IDENTITY, KID!

YOUNG JOSEPH JUST HAS A PECULIAR WAY ABOUT HIM, THAT IS ALL. HE IS NICE ENOUGH AND I AM SURE HE MAKES HIS PARENTS PROUD.



RIGGGHHTT. PROUD AS SITTING ON THE POT AND TAKING A NICE, JUICY--

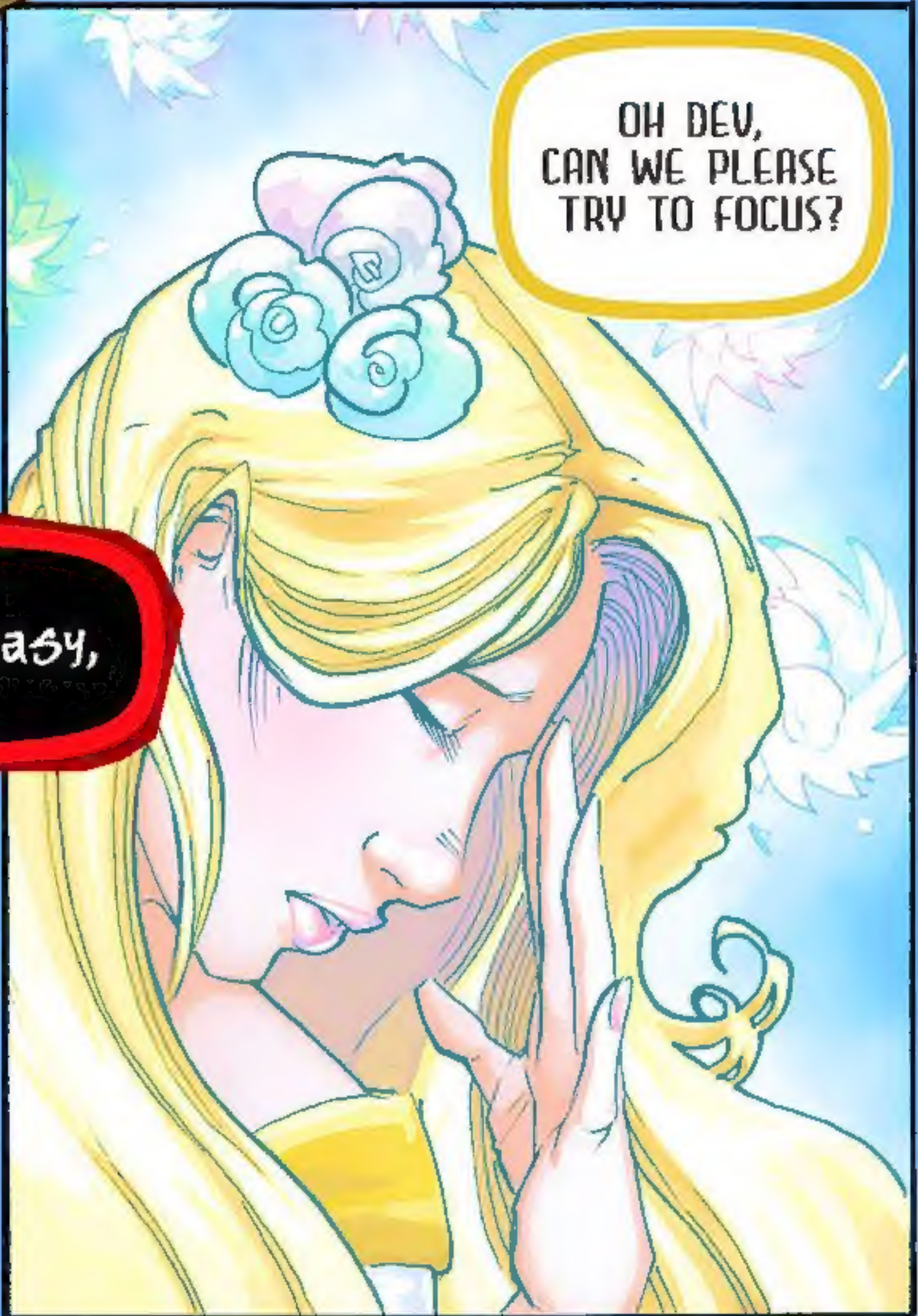


DEV!!! I WILL NOT HAVE THAT TYPE OF LANGUAGE FROM YOU TODAY. ESPECIALLY ON OUR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. WE HAD A TALK ABOUT THAT, REMEMBER?



SMOKIN' FOOLS AIN'T EASY, Y'KOW?

yeah, yeah. you TALKED WHILE I SKILLFULLY ANNIHILATED SWARMS OF NAZI ZOMBIES AND THEIR MUTATED OFFSPRING.



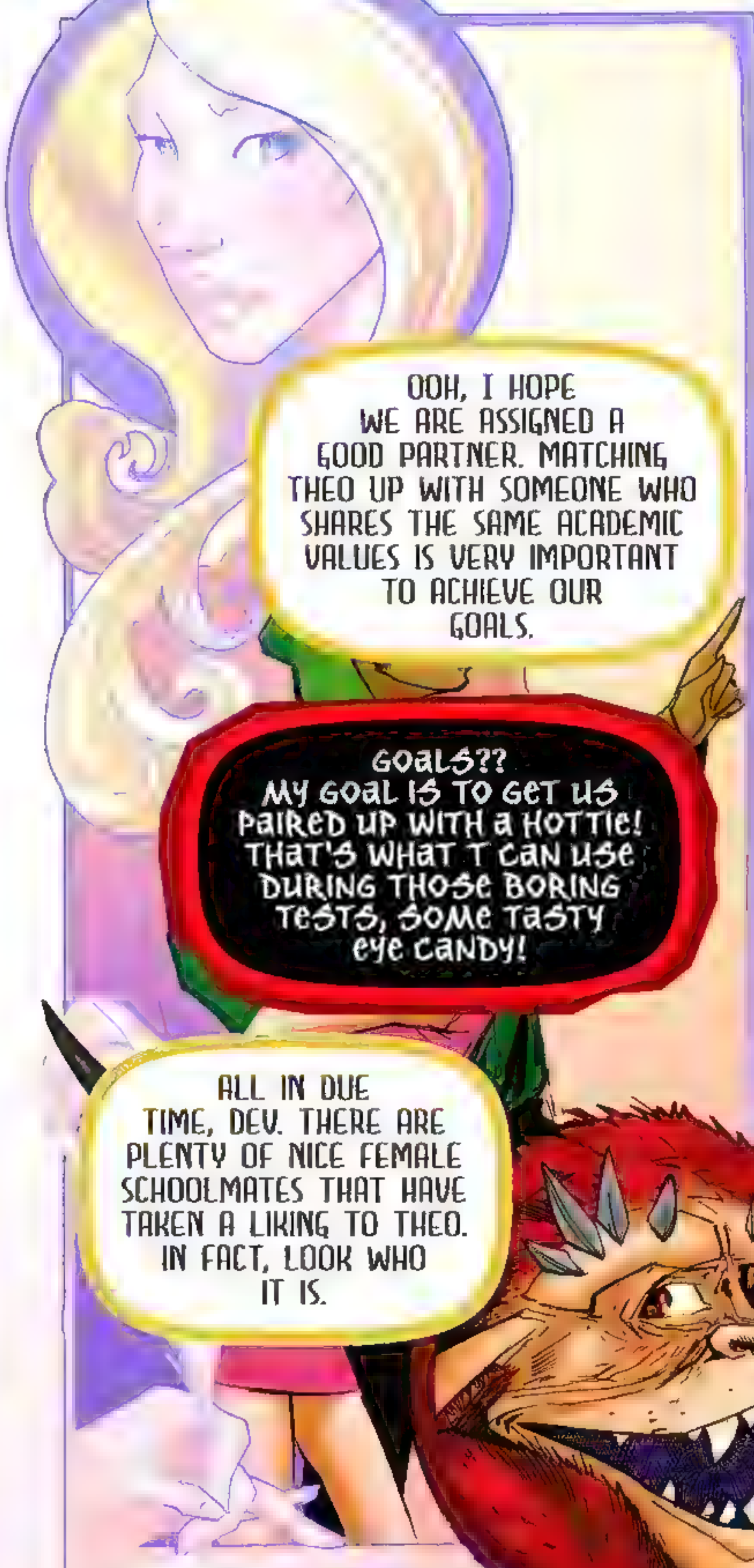
OH DEV, CAN WE PLEASE TRY TO FOCUS?



CATCH UP IN A SEC, T. GOTTA DROP OFF SOME GEAR.

SURE, AS SOON AS YOU'RE DONE CHEERING ME ON. BECAUSE I RULE!

...LET US JUST GET GOING. WE NEED TO CHECK THE LAB SCHEDULE.



OOH, I HOPE WE ARE ASSIGNED A GOOD PARTNER. MATCHING THEO UP WITH SOMEONE WHO SHARES THE SAME ACADEMIC VALUES IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS.

GOALS?? MY GOAL IS TO GET US PAIRED UP WITH A HOTTIE! THAT'S WHAT I CAN USE DURING THOSE BORING TESTS, SOME TASTY EYE CANDY!

ALL IN DUE TIME, DEV. THERE ARE PLENTY OF NICE FEMALE SCHOOLMATES THAT HAVE TAKEN A LIKING TO THEO. IN FACT, LOOK WHO IT IS.



HEYA SPORT. RUNNING LATE AS USUAL?



NO WAY, KIORI. I'M RIGHT ON TIME WITH A SEMI-FASHIONABLE TARDINESS. EVERY SENIOR IS REQUIRED TO HAVE IT.

WELL, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU THAT YOU'RE A SENIOR, BUT FASHIONABLE? UMM...



HEY, MY MOM GOT ME THIS SHIRT.

SO WHO'D YOU GET PAIRED UP WITH?

DOES IT REALLY MATTER? I'LL WIND UP DOING ALL OF THE WORK, ANYWAY. I JUST HOPE WHOEVER IT IS CAN FORM COMPLETE SENTENCES.



SAYS HERE THAT I'M PAIRED WITH LOU. WHO'S LOU?



IT'S LOUISA,
ACTUALLY. LOU
FOR SHORT.

BE
RIGHT WITH
YOU.

MY LADY,
YOUR CHAMPION
AWAITS.

I'LL
NEVER LET GO,
JACK.

MY HEART
WILL GO ON
FOREVER.

DAMN!!!!
FOR ONCE
I'M WITH YOU
GUYS. SHE'S
INCREDIBLE.



SEE YA IN CLASS.

UHHHH...



MY BOY!
ALWAYS ROLLING
YAHTZEE. GONNA
BE A FUN YEAR,
BRO.



EXCUSE ME,
CHILDREN. *SOME*
OF US NEED TO LEARN
A FEW THINGS
TODAY.

AND
THEO...



...YOU MAY
WANT TO WIPE
THE DROOL.



IN YA GO,
ROMEO.



THIS SUCKS!



I CAN'T BELIEVE WE HAVE HOMEWORK ON THE FIRST DAY!!!

WHY MUST YOU CONSTANTLY COMPLAIN, DEV? MOST OF THIS WORK IS SIMPLY FORMS TO FILL OUT AND STARTING OUR CLASSROOM PLANNERS. THE LITTLE HOMEWORK WE DO HAVE IS QUITE EASY AND SHOULD NOT TAKE LONGER THAN AN HOUR OR SO.



ANOTHER HOUR?!? WE'VE BEEN ON THIS STUFF SINCE WE GOT HOME. WHAT A DRAG.

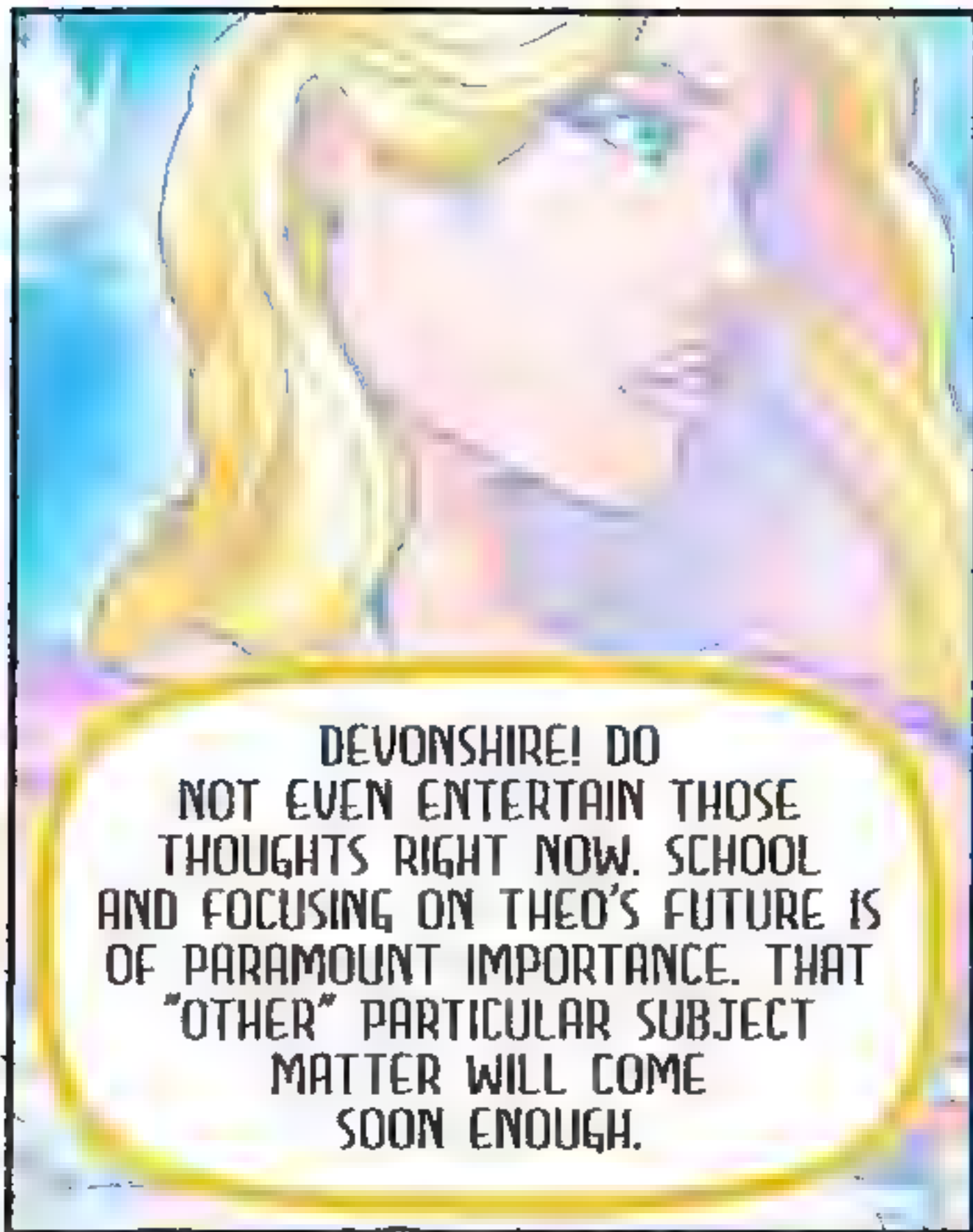
I HAD A LONG DAY AND NEEDS SOME TIME TO UNWIND. HIS PARENTS ARE STILL AWAY FOR WORK, WHICH MEANS WE CAN STAY UP AND WATCH SOME LATE NIGHT TV.



TELEVISION IS A WASTE OF THEO'S TIME. WE CAN HELP EDUCATE HIM SO MUCH MORE BY READING OUR BOOKS AND STUDYING OUR TEXTS. HIS LEARNING SHOULD NEVER STOP.



COULDN'T AGREE MORE, ANGE. THERE'S A SWEET SKINEMAX MOVIE STARTING SOON. HE'LL LEARN A WHOLE HELL OF A LOT WITH THAT.



DEVONSHIRE! DO NOT EVEN ENTERTAIN THOSE THOUGHTS RIGHT NOW. SCHOOL AND FOCUSING ON THEO'S FUTURE IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE. THAT "OTHER" PARTICULAR SUBJECT MATTER WILL COME SOON ENOUGH.



BUT THE KID'S A LITTLE STALLION WITH LOTS OF STAMINA. HECK, HE RUNS TRACK. WHAT D'YA SAY?



GRRR...



FINE. STOP LOOKING SO GRIEFED. SOME OTHER TIME THEN.

WHAT'S T WORKING ON ANYWAY? CAN'T BELIEVE THAT KOOKY NEW PSYCHE PROFESSOR GAVE US HOMEWORK ON THE FIRST DAY. HE WEIRDS ME OUT.

WHO TAKES PSYCHOLOGY AS AN ELECTIVE ANYWAY? SHOULD HAVE TAKEN VOLLEYBALL. COULDA SPIKED SOME FOOLS!



A VERY SILLY QUESTION, DEV, SEEING AS HOW YOU KNOW BOTH OF THEO'S PARENTS ARE PSYCHOLOGISTS.

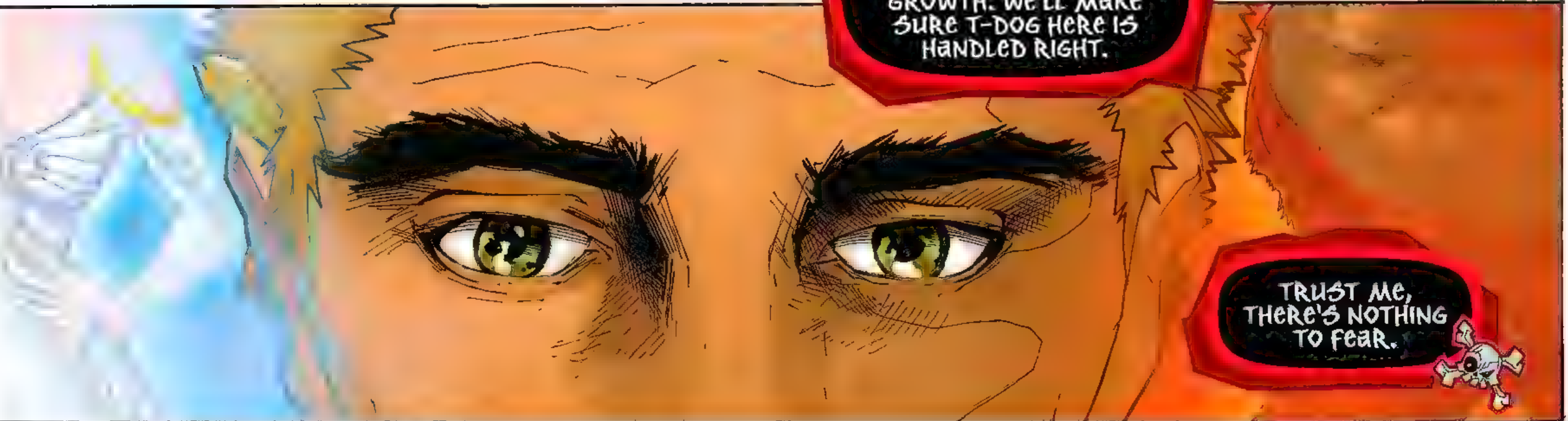
AND OUR NEW INSTRUCTOR, THOUGH ODD HE MAY BE, PRESENTED SOME VERY PROFOUND INSIGHT TO HUMAN NATURE.

IT SEEMS WE WILL BE RESEARCHING SEVERAL CHALLENGING SUBJECTS. THE FIRST IS FEAR.



HA, I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING. THAT'S A BUNCH OF BS. ALL OF HIS FRIGHT AND ANXIETY TALK.

BEING SCARED IS JUST A WEAKNESS AND FAILURE IN OUR KIND NOT GUIDING EACH HUMAN PROPERLY DURING THEIR GROWTH. WE'LL MAKE SURE T-DOG HERE IS HANDLED RIGHT.



TRUST ME, THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR.



AAAAGGGHHH!

NEFARIO.

ALMOST THERE! GONNA MAKE IT!

NO WAY, SNOOF! WE'RE SNUFFING YOU OUT THIS TIME. YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY!

WE'RE BRINGING THE PAIN!

PAIN! PAIN! PAIN!

WE'VE RUN THIS ROUTE BEFORE FELLAS. NO CHANCE YOU'RE CATCHING ME TODAY.

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THAT EASILY. DON'T YOU REMEMBER THE LAST TIME GRAP PLAYED WITH US. CONSIDER YOURSELF TOAST!

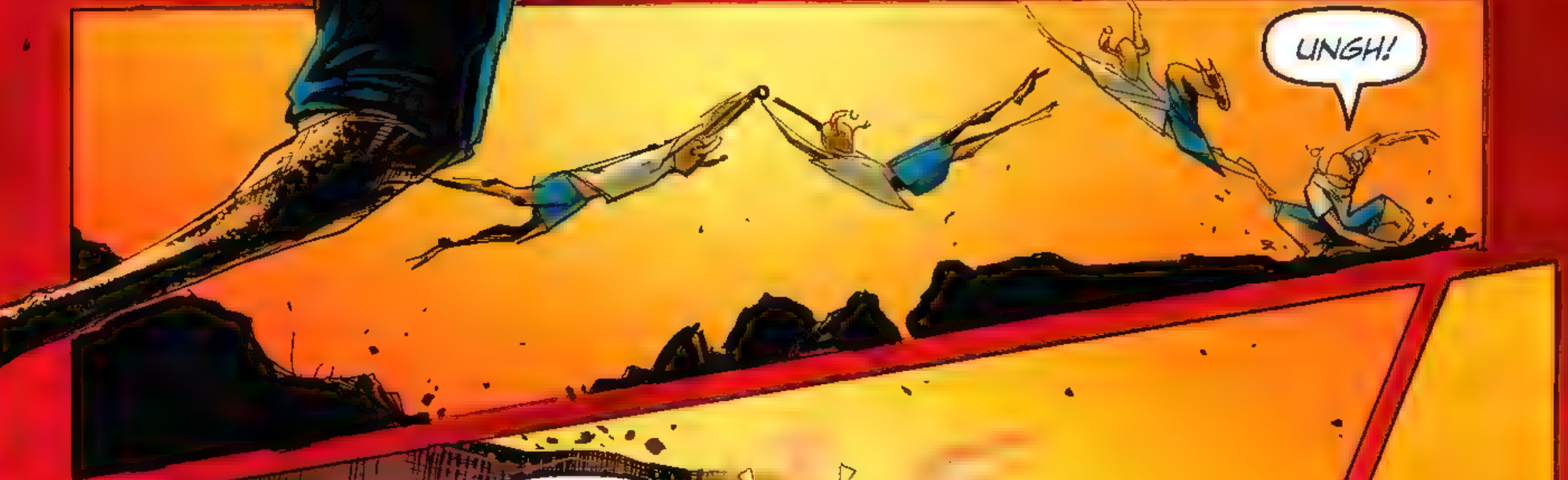
YOU KNOW IT, FLOBART. HE'S GOING DOWN!

YEAH, DOWN!

GOOD IDEA GENTS. YOU UP THE STAKES, I'M CHANGING THE GAME. AND YOU'RE RIGHT, I AM GOING...

...DOWN!!!!

WooHoo!!





YOUR MAJESTY.

IT'S AN HONOR, AND VERY UNEXPECTED SURPRISE TO SEE YOU HERE. WE DON'T USUALLY HAVE VISITORS OF YOUR STATURE IN THE LOWER BOROUGH.

EVEN THOUGH MY POSITION WITHIN OUR TWO RACES HAS BEEN ELEVATED, I STILL CHOOSE TO PERFORM SECURITY DETAIL WITH MY GUARDS. WE WERE COMPLETING OUR ROUNDS AND HEARD THE COMMOTION OVER HERE. GLAD TO SEE YOU CITIZENS ARE SAFE.

YES, SIR. ALL IS WELL HERE.

WELL, 600 IS--

SHHH.

GOOD TO HEAR IT.



WE ARE STILL IN SEARCH OF THE MISSING FUGITIVE EMBER SILVA. HER CRIMES AGAINST BOTH OUR PEOPLE NEED TO BE ANSWERED FOR.



I WILL MAKE SURE THAT HAPPENS.



BEST OF LUCK TO YOU ON YOUR SEARCH, SIR.

MANY THANKS. FAREWELL.

WOW. WHAT A WAY TO EARN A WIN, RUNNING INTO THE MAIN MAN HIMSELF.

WHAT?!? YOU DIDN'T WIN. YOU FORFEITED. IT'S A TIE AT BEST!

"SNOOF SNUFF" CAN NEVER END IN A TIE...

...SUCKERS!!!



ELYSIA.

ANY
SIGNS OF
HER?

UNFORTUNATELY
NO, MARINA. WE HAVE
WIDENED OUR PERIMETER
AND DOUBLED OUR EFFORTS
BUT HAVE YET TO UNCOVER
ANY LEADS AS TO HER
WHEREABOUTS.

IT WOULD SEEM
SHE HAS GONE WELL
BEYOND THE CITIES
AND MAY BE GONE
FOR GOOD.

I WISH
THAT WERE
SO.

BUT AFTER
EVERYTHING SHE
DESTROYED AND THE POWER
SHE SOUGHT TO ABUSE, I DO
NOT THINK WE HAVE SEEN
THE LAST OF HER.

IF EMBER
SILVA DOES
RETURN, WE WILL
BE READY AND
WAITING.

IN THE MEANTIME,
AND WITH OUR SEARCHES
BEARING NO RESULTS, I
NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE
IN ATTENDING TO OTHER
MATTERS AT HAND.

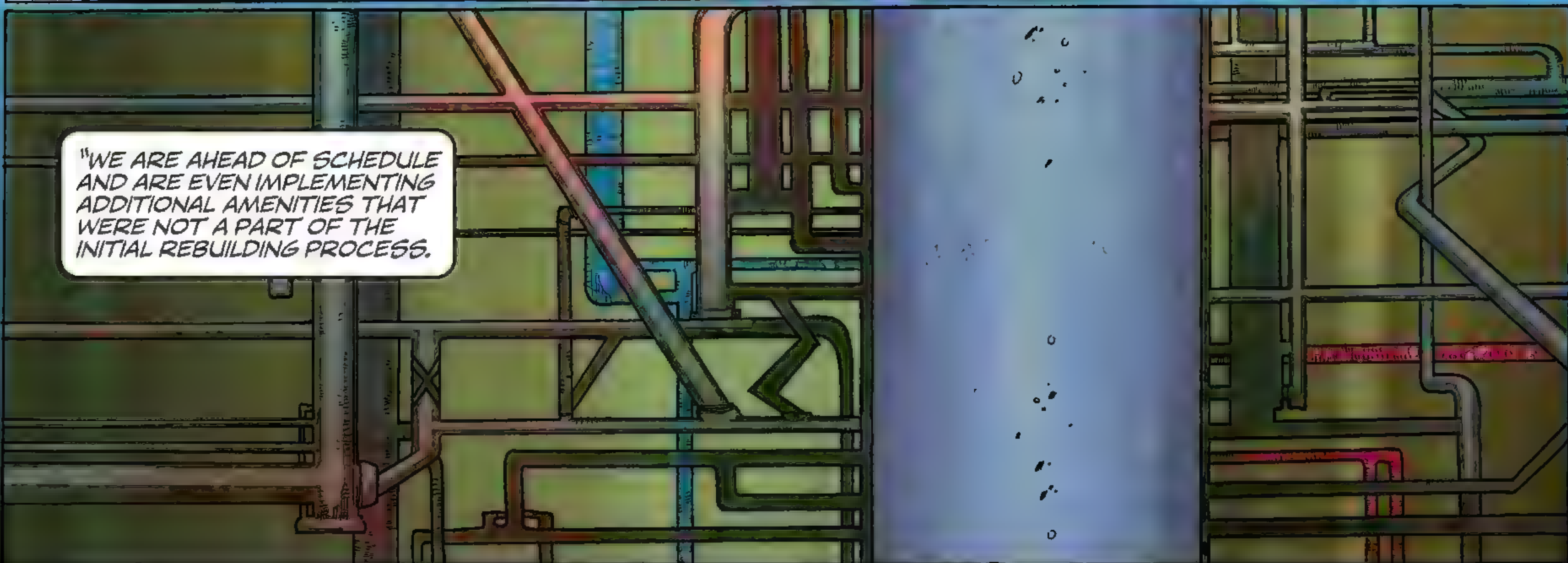
OF COURSE,
MAGNUSS.

IN FACT, MANY
OF OUR REBUILDING
EFFORTS ARE WELL
IN STRIDE.

"BOTH ELYSIANS AND NEFARIANS HAVE JOINED FORCES TO HELP REBUILD THE TRANSFERSCENDING CHAMBER CENTER.



"WE ARE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE AND ARE EVEN IMPLEMENTING ADDITIONAL AMENITIES THAT WERE NOT A PART OF THE INITIAL REBUILDING PROCESS.



"THE EVENTS THAT OCCURRED THERE WERE CERTAINLY DARK TIMES FOR OUR PEOPLE...



"...BUT I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT THOSE DAYS WILL BE BEHIND US SHORTLY."



REVENNNGGEEEEEE!!!!



TO BE CONTINUED IN THE
PAGES OF
SHRUGGED
#2

SHRUGGED²

**You may want to
leave on a nightlight...**

I remember one of the last conversations I had with Mike (Michael Turner) about Shrugged. We were at his house. He was trying to get comfortable in his chair while I sat on the other couch trying to discuss some work items amid his discomfort. That never put a damper on his creative spirit though, and we had been putting off a Shrugged talk for several weeks. The first volume had finally wrapped up and we were getting ready to start planning out volume 2. He had a few ideas he wanted to go over with me since there were several 'leftovers' from volume 1 that we weren't able to incorporate. These discussions were always the best and it was time to create once again.

Now even though Mike was always upbeat, and by always, I mean *always*, he had his fair share of darker moments just like everyone else. With all of his surgeries and the pain he went through, it would have been simple enough for him to be angry or upset about it, and feel like the world was seemingly against him. And perhaps he did have those feelings every once in a blue moon, but for the most part, he never let it get him down. He kept fighting and kept his spirit high, living life to its fullest instead of retreating the other way. Definitely not an easy feat, but one he rose up to the challenge of every single time. However, he knew those darker moments were always close by, ready to swoop in and take over. This would serve as the basis we used for Shrugged volume 2.

What if you couldn't fend off those unrelenting feelings of anger that quell up inside more often than not? That no



SKETCHES BY SERIES ARTIST:
JONATHAN MARKS

matter how hard you fought the fear, you just couldn't win? Every single person deals with situations like these on a daily basis, and the decisions that are made carry consequences that live with you for the rest of your life. How you choose to handle those moments defines who you are. Mike wanted to explore this aspect of human nature and how all of that would play out between our characters in Shrugged. If Theo were presented with such a challenge, how would he ever be able to rise up and defeat it? Especially if it affected the entire world?!

That brings us to why you're here. You've just finished reading issue 1 of our newest volume of Shrugged that kicks off with the premise Mike wanted to utilize several years ago. He may not be here to see its outcome, but I'm doing everything possible to keep his ideals and vision in tact. This is the story he wanted to tell and it's my honor to bring it to you. Along with newcomer Jonathan Marks who is absolutely knocking it out of the park on the artwork, and colorist Beth Sotelo who breathes every ounce of beautifully colored life into Shrugged, we couldn't be happier and more grateful to have you hold our latest creation in your hands.

But, things aren't going to stay happy for too long. Theo and his friends are about to find out that fighting your fears isn't always easy. As I suggested earlier, you may want to sleep with a nightlight on because Shrugged volume 2 is bringing the fear!

-FRANK MASTROMAURO



**Collect The Six Part
Second Volume
Adventure
of a Lifetime!**

#210
FOR
10
COVER A

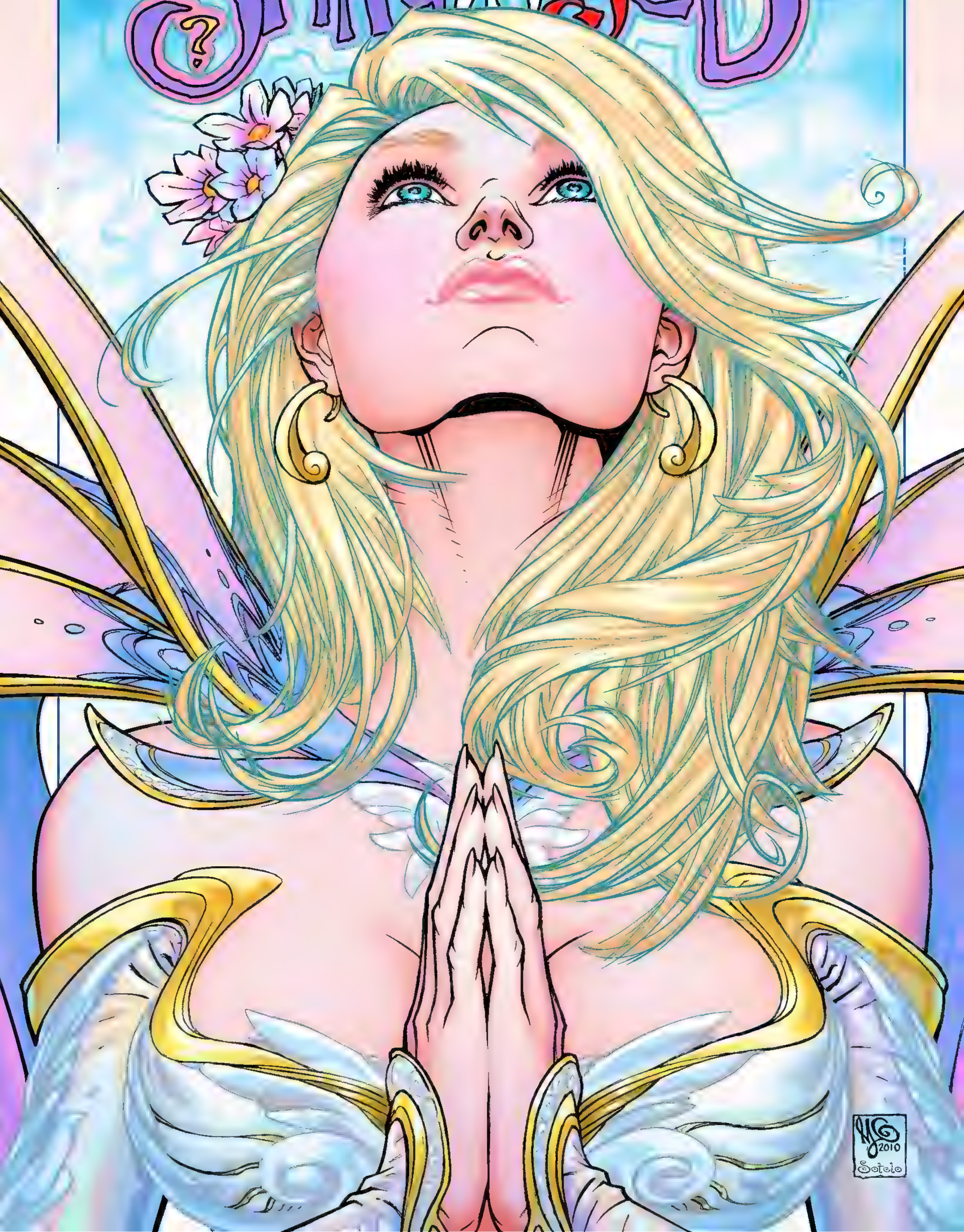
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SHRUGGED 2



2010
Sotelo

#210
COVER B

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SHRUGGED 2



MG
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REUNITING MAXSTROM AND HIS
YET--SENIOR YEAR AT MAXWELL
HIGH. REUNITING WITH FRIENDS
KIORI AND THOM, ALONG WITH HIS
EVER-PRESENT CONSCIENCE GUIDES
ANGE AND DEV, THEO FINDS THAT A
FRESH START OF THE YEAR MEANS NEW
ADVENTURES...AS WELL AS ENCOUN-
TERS. ONE OF WHICH BEING HIS VERY
ATTRACTIVE LAB PARTNER, LOU. HOWEVER,
NOT EVERYTHING IS SUNSHINE, AS TROUBLE
IS BREWING IN THE LAND OF PERSPECTA, AND
A DARKNESS HAS BEGUN TO SPREAD ACROSS
BOTH NEFARIO AND ELYSIA. ONE THAT COULD
THREATEN MORE THAN JUST THEIR OWN LIVES...

Our story so far...

Saving the world
in his junior year
was one thing, but
Theodore Langstrom
must now prepare for
his greatest challenge
yet--senior year at Maxwell
High. Reuniting with friends
Kiori and Thom, along with his
ever-present conscience guides
Ange and Dev, Theo finds that a
fresh start of the year means new
adventures...as well as encoun-
ters. One of which being his very
attractive lab partner, Lou. However,
not everything is sunshine, as trouble
is brewing in the land of Perspecta, and
a darkness has begun to spread across
both Nefario and Elysia. One that could
threaten more than just their own lives...

SHRUGGED

VOLUME 1

ISSUE 2

JOSH REED

SHRUGGED
MICAH GUNNELL
BY MICAH GUNNELL
MAXSTROM AND HIS

EDITOR VINCE HERNANDEZ
DESIGN AND PRODUCTION MARK ROSLAN,
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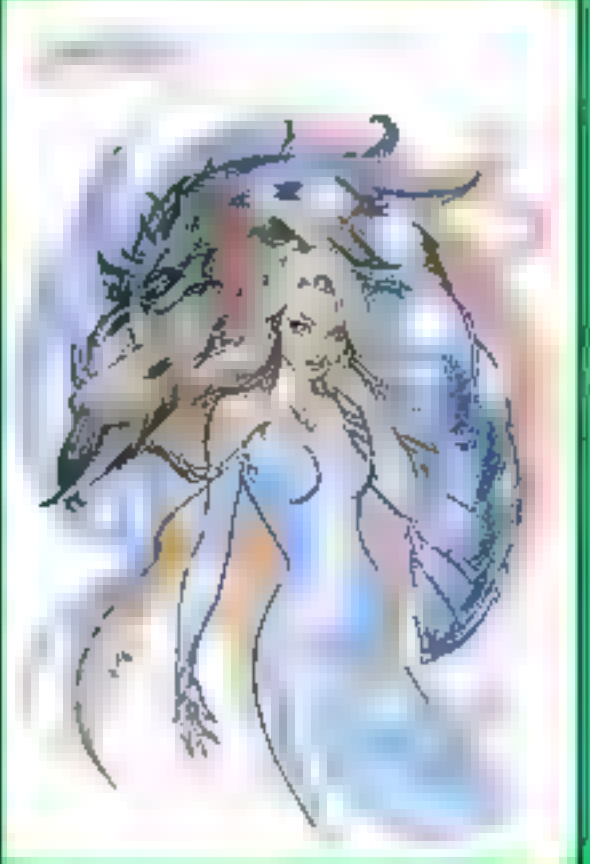
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MASTROMAURO, F

I USED TO TRY TO AVOID MY MEETINGS WITH BROCKTON. HE'S A GOOD GUY AND ALL, BUT I DIDN'T THINK HE'D BE ABLE TO HELP ME OUT WITH WHAT WAS GOING ON INSIDE MY HEAD.

I WAS HAPPY TO FIND OUT I WAS WRONG.

BEFORE COMING TO THE SCHOOL, HE WAS A COLLEAGUE OF MY PARENTS. HE ACTUALLY TRIED HIS BEST TO HELP MY BROTHER, BUT MITCHELL WAS ALREADY LOST. THE VOICES HE WAS HEARING WERE JUST TOO MUCH FOR HIM TO BEAR.

MARKS, J

I MISS YOU EVERYDAY, BRO.

SOTELO, B

AND I MAY HAVE WOUND UP LIKE MITCH IF BROCKTON WASN'T ABLE TO HELP ME GET THINGS SORTED OUT.

HE STILL MAY NOT KNOW THE ENTIRE STORY JUST YET, BUT WHO KNOWS...

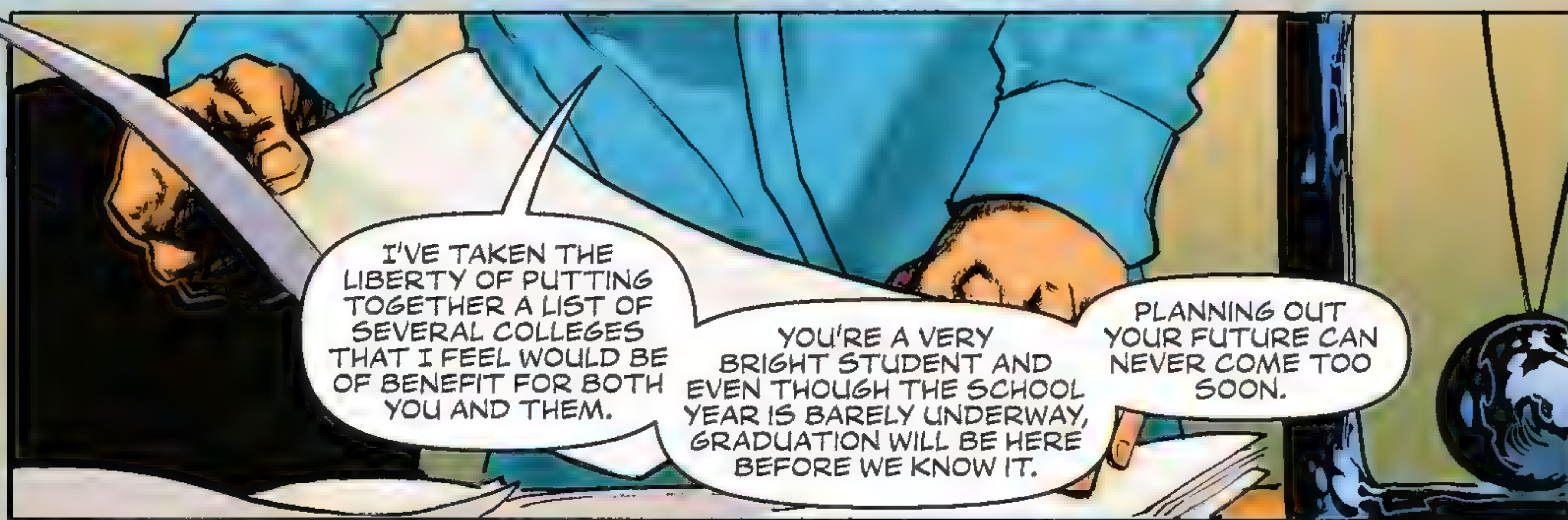
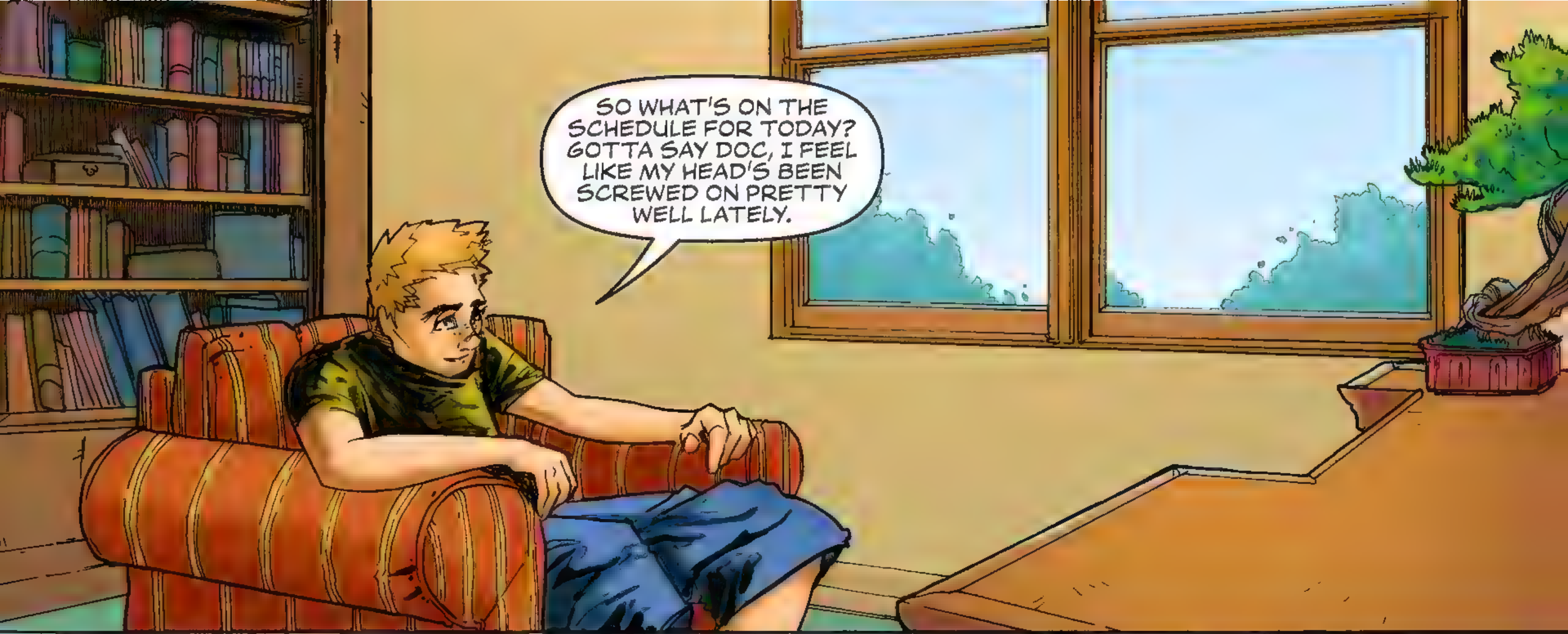
KNOCK KNOCK

HEYA DR. B. READY FOR OUR MEETING?

...THERE'S STILL THE REST OF THE SCHOOL YEAR TO GO.

OF COURSE, THEO. YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME. COME IN.

REED, J





DANGER.
EVIL. PAIN.

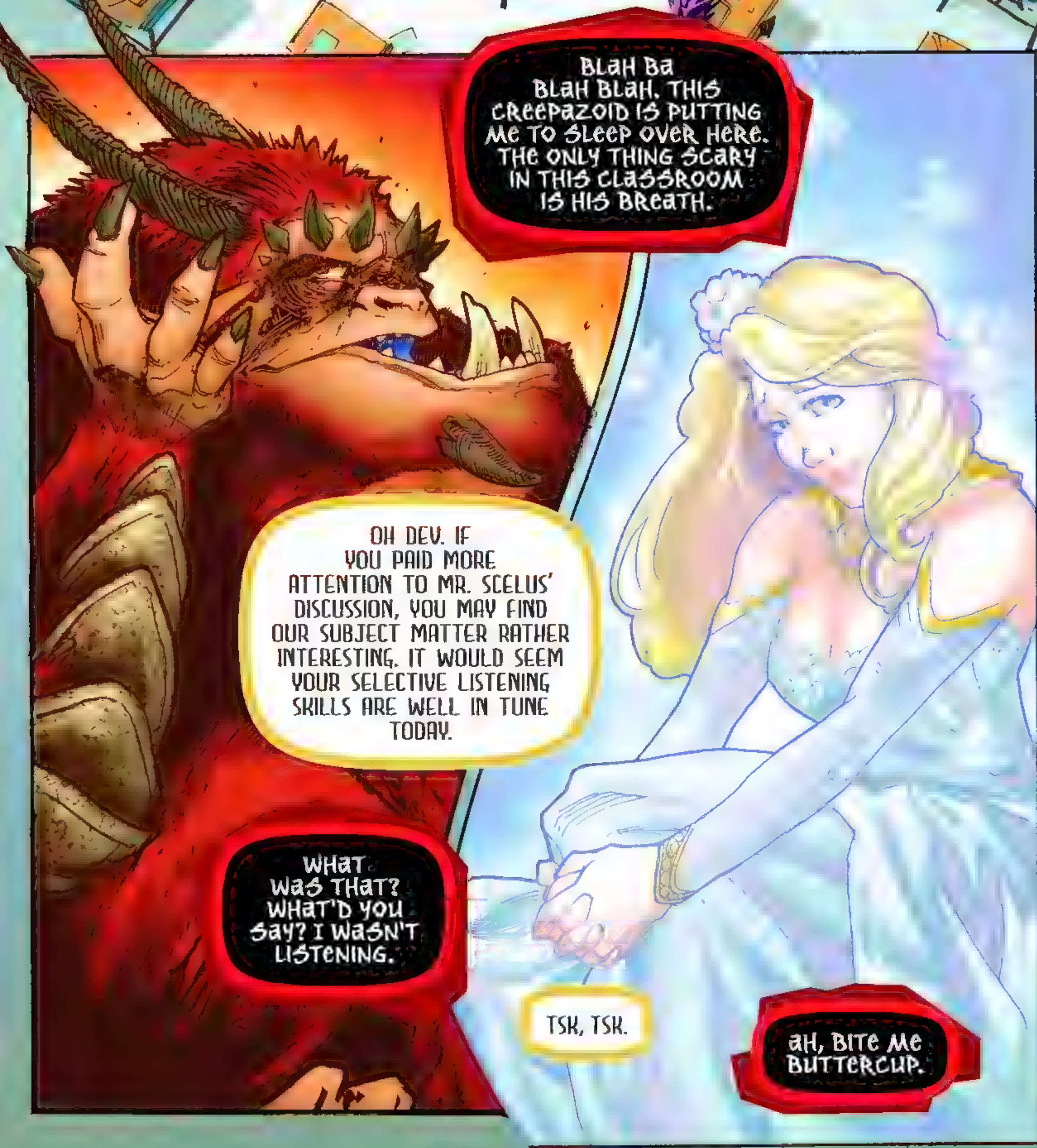
ALL TRIGGERS TO
AROUSE DISTRESSING
EMOTIONS WITHIN
ONESELF.

THE
FEELING OF
FEAR.

BUT WHAT CREATES
THE PROPENSITY FOR SUCH
FEELINGS? HEIGHTENED ANXIETY?
AN IMPENDING SENSE OF DREAD?
AN APPREHENSION OF THE
UNKNOWN?

WHEN FACED
WITH UNCERTAINTY, IT
IS WITHIN OUR NATURE TO
TRY AND AVOID THOSE RISKS,
RATHER THAN APPROACH
OUR FEARS HEAD ON.

YOU MAY
NOT THINK IT OR
CHOOSE TO ADMIT
IT, BUT **EVERYONE**
GETS SCARED.
EVEN YOU.



BLAH BA
BLAH BLAH. THIS
CREEPAZOID IS PUTTING
ME TO SLEEP OVER HERE.
THE ONLY THING SCARY
IN THIS CLASSROOM
IS HIS BREATH.

OH DEV. IF
YOU PAID MORE
ATTENTION TO MR. SCELUS'
DISCUSSION, YOU MAY FIND
OUR SUBJECT MATTER RATHER
INTERESTING. IT WOULD SEEM
YOUR SELECTIVE LISTENING
SKILLS ARE WELL IN TUNE
TODAY.

WHAT
WAS THAT?
WHAT'D YOU
SAY? I WASN'T
LISTENING.

TSK, TSK.

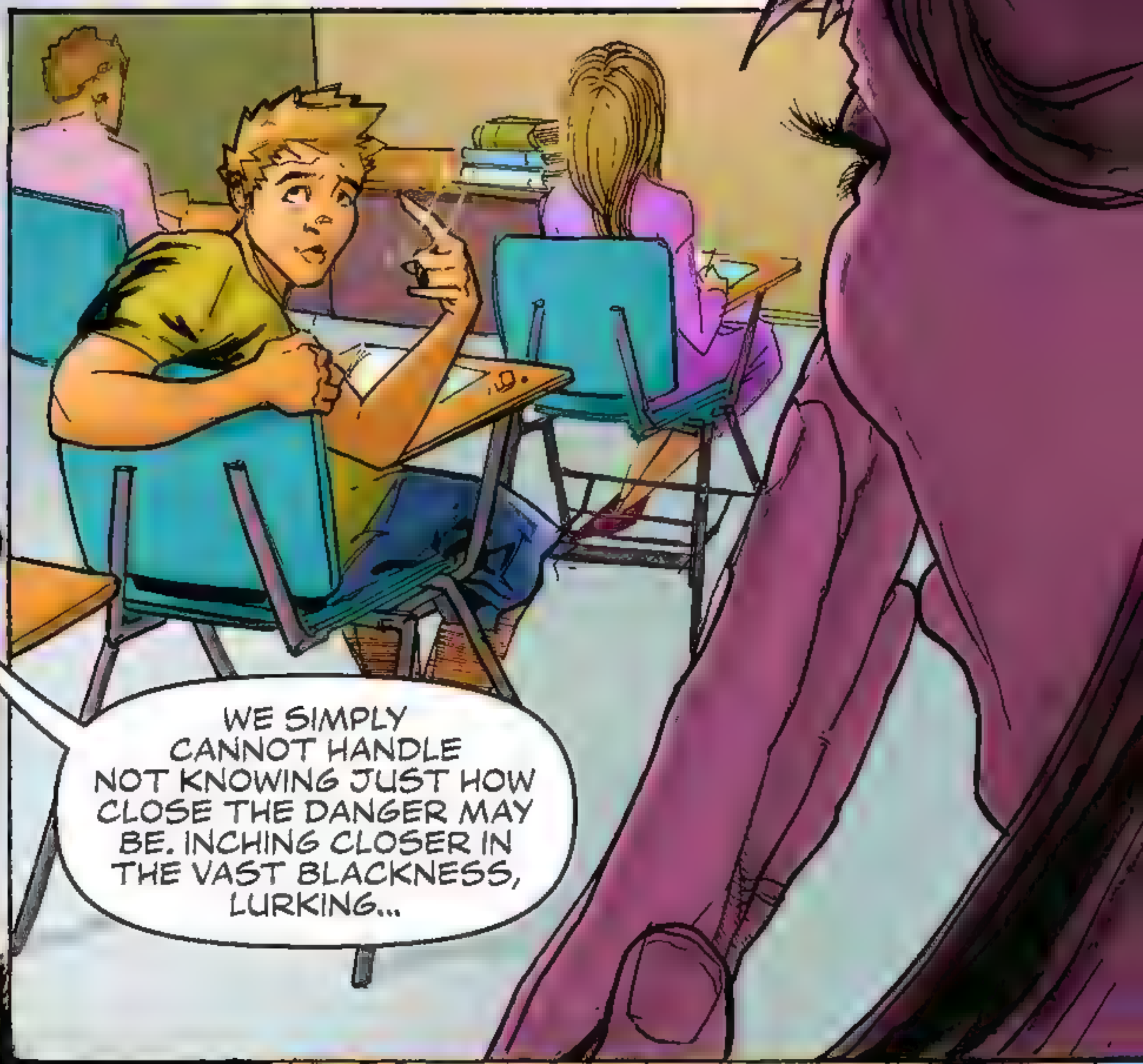
AH, BITE ME
BUTTERCUP.



HOW MANY OF
YOU ARE AFRAID
OF THE DARK?



IT IS A VERY JUSTIFIABLE FRIGHT. THE DARKNESS TERRIFIES US.



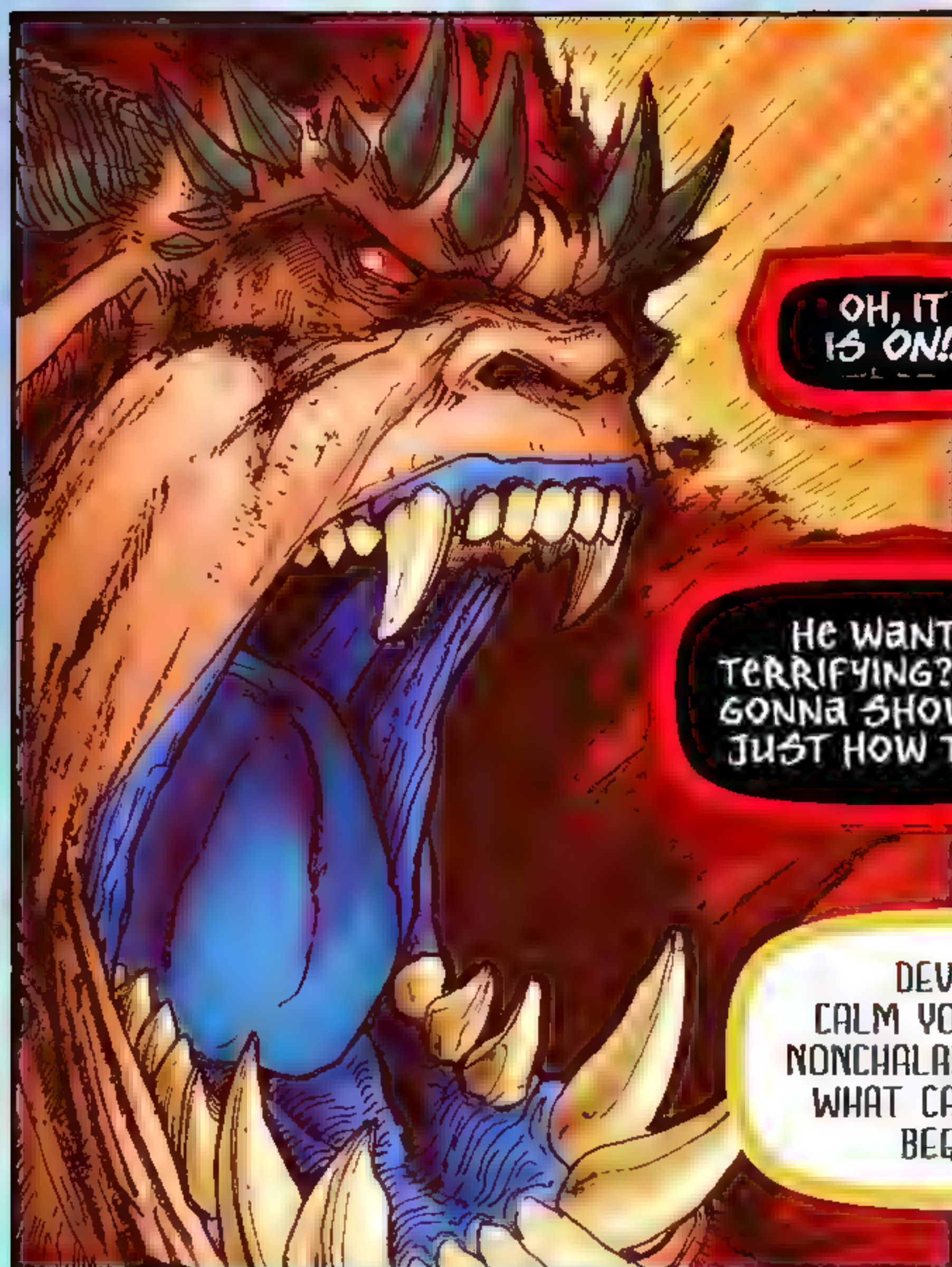
WE SIMPLY CANNOT HANDLE NOT KNOWING JUST HOW CLOSE THE DANGER MAY BE. INCHING CLOSER IN THE VAST BLACKNESS, LURKING...



...JUST WAITING TO STRIKE!

WHHHHAAMMMM

QUITE ALARMING IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF. NOW, ANXIETIES...



OH, IT IS ON!!

HE WANTS TERRIFYING?!? I'M GONNA SHOW HIM JUST HOW TER--

DEVI! PLEASE CALM YOURSELF. YOUR NONCHALANT ATTITUDE IS WHAT CAUSED THIS TO BEGIN WITH.



CLASS IS ALMOST OVER THANKFULLY.



LET US SHOW THE PROPER ATTENTION UNTIL WE LEAVE.

yeah yeah, BUT THIS ISN'T OVER, SCelus! ya Hear Me?!

NEFARIO.

THE LOCAL FIRE PIT.

YO MAN,
YA HEAR
ME??

THE BREWS HERE ARE
STARTIN' TO RUN DRY. WE
SHOULD GET GOING.

YEAH,
TIME TO HEAD
BACK TO THE PUB.
HEARD FONZIE IS
BUYING ROUNDS
AGAIN.

HEY HEY,
LOOK WHO
IT IS.

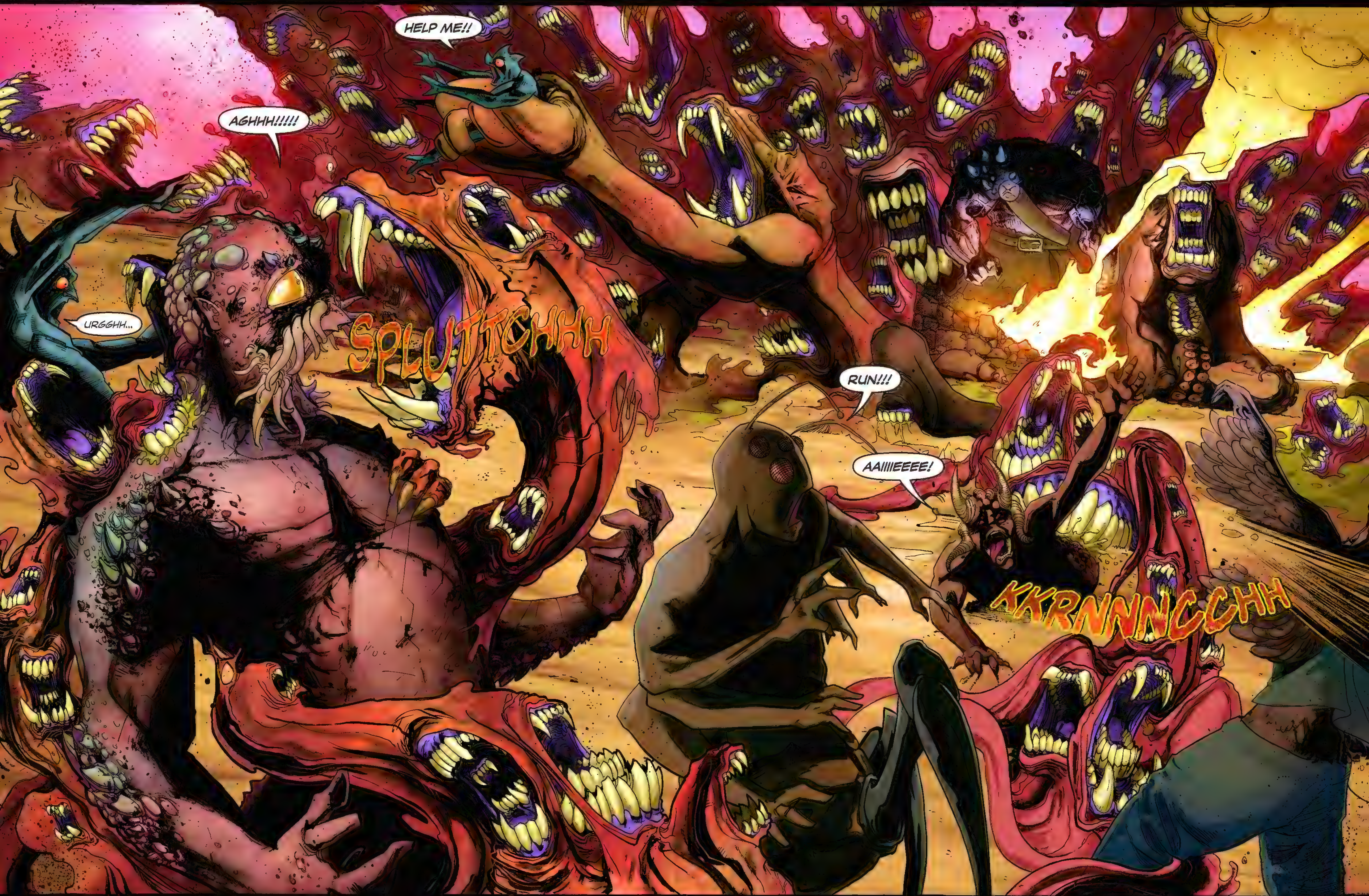
HOW'S
IT GOING MAN?
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU
SINCE THE WHOLE
TRANSFERSCENDING
INCIDENT. WHERE
YA BEEN?

UH,
WHAT'CHA
GOT THERE
WITH YOU?

WHA...
WAIT UP, MAN!
WHAT'S GOING
ON?!?

WE
WEREN'T
INVOLVED.
PLEASE!!

NOOO!!!



HELP ME!!

AGHHH!!!!

URGHH...

SPLUTTCHHH

RUN!!!

AAIIIEEEE!

KKRNNNCCHH



LOOKS LIKE YOU AND SCELUS WILL BE QUITE THE PAIR IN CLASS THIS YEAR. BETTER WATCH THOSE FINGERS NEXT TIME.

NO KIDDING, RIGHT. TALK ABOUT EXTREME TEACHING METHODS.



AND HERE I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO GET ALONG SO WELL, TOO.



SEE, THERE'S YOUR PROBLEM AGAIN. TRYING TO THINK. THAT'S NEVER BEEN ONE OF YOUR BEST ATTRIBUTES.

OH YEAH? SO TELL ME WHAT I AM GOOD AT THEN.



HERE LOOK, I'LL SHOW YOU.



HOT DAMN!! IF THAT GIRL ISN'T SENDING US THE SIGNALS! OUR BOY IS IN!

WOOHOO! SECOND BASE!

I'M NEVER WASHING MY EYES AGAIN!

I SEE LONDON, I SEE FRANCE!



KIORI IS MERELY OBTAINING SOMETHING FROM HER PURSE AND HER SHIRT HAS ADJUSTED. SHE IS OUR CLOSE FRIEND AND I AM GETTING QUITE TIRED OF THE WHAT IF MAFIA SHOWING UP AT MOMENTS LIKE THIS. DEV, YOU NEED TO ASSIST WITH THEM **NOW** PLEASE.



FINE.
Way to SPOIL
THE FUN!

PRESENTING
THE ONE THING
YOU ARE GOOD
AT...



55 YEARS!!
...TADAA!

YUM!
NEW
AND
IMPROVED



→MUNCH MUNCH←
VERY FUNNY. →MUNCH←
BUT THANKS.

ANYTIME.



THAT IS
SO SWEET. SEE HOW
THOUGHTFUL KIORI IS?
SHE ALWAYS KNOWS
HOW TO BRIGHTEN
THEO'S DAY.

I HAVE TO
agree WITH YOU
THERE, ANGE. THE
CHICA IS PRETTY SWEET
ON LITTLE OL' T. MIGHT BE
TIME TO START PUMPING
THIS FRIENDSHIP TO
THE NEXT LEVEL.



HONK
HONK





I SAID
SHUT
UP!!!

YOU GUYS
HAVE BEEN
MAKING NOISE ALL
NIGHT OUT THERE
AND I CAN'T GET
ANY SLEEP!



IT'S BEEN
A COMPLETE
STRUGGLE TO
SNUGGLE IN HERE!
NOW KEEP IT
DOWN!



HMPH.
FINALLY. SOME
PEACE AND
QUI--

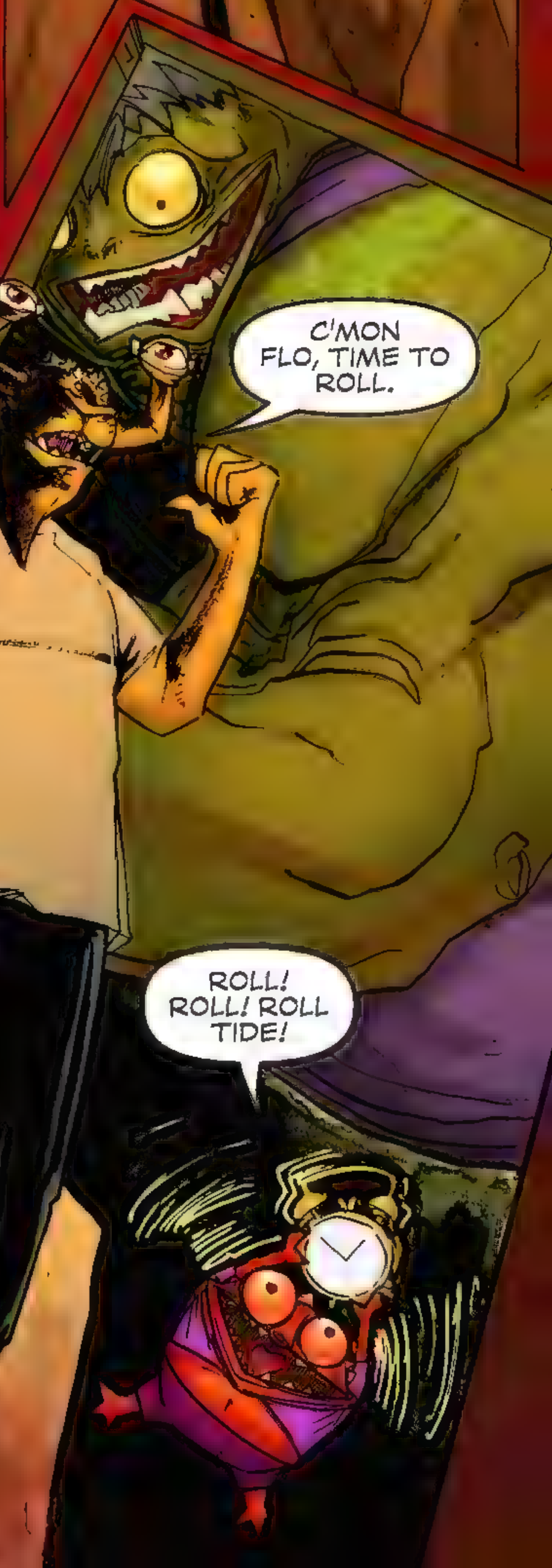


**BANG
BANG
BANG**

FOR
THE LOVE
OF...



...YOU
GUYS ARE SO
DEAD!



C'MON
FLO, TIME TO
ROLL.

ROLL!
ROLL! ROLL
TIDE!





I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU HAD TO DRAG ME TO THIS THING, SNOOF. I DON'T EVEN GET ALONG WITH MOST OF THESE GUYS.

IT'S JUST A WAY TO LET OFF SOME STEAM. MANY OF THESE NEFS HAD BAD OUTINGS WITH THEIR HOST AND NEED A LITTLE PICK-ME-UP. NOT EVERYONE GETS PAIRED WITH A HUMAN THEY MESH WELL WITH.

WE'RE JUST HERE TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT, BUDDY.



AND GET A FEW GOOD BOTTLES OF SUDS, RIGHT?

YOU KNOW IT, GRAP.



NOTHING BETTER THAN THROWING A FEW BACK WITH YOUR GOOD FRIENDS.

FLOBART, YOU CAN STILL COME TOO.



THAT'S IT. I'M GOING BACK HOME TO SLEEP!

HA! RELAX MY MAN, WE'RE ALMOST THERE. THE PIT'S RIGHT THROUGH--

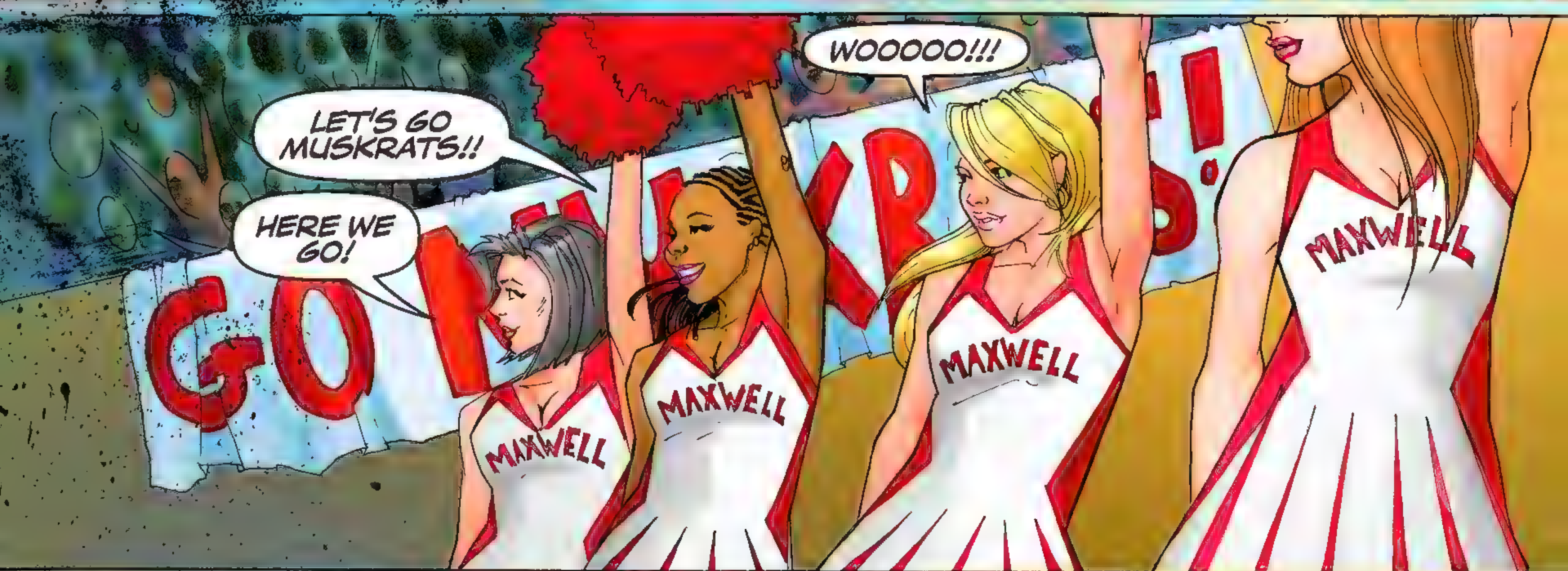


OH MY GOD! THEY'RE ALL... DEAD!

WHO WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS??

WE GOTTA TELL SOMEBODY!

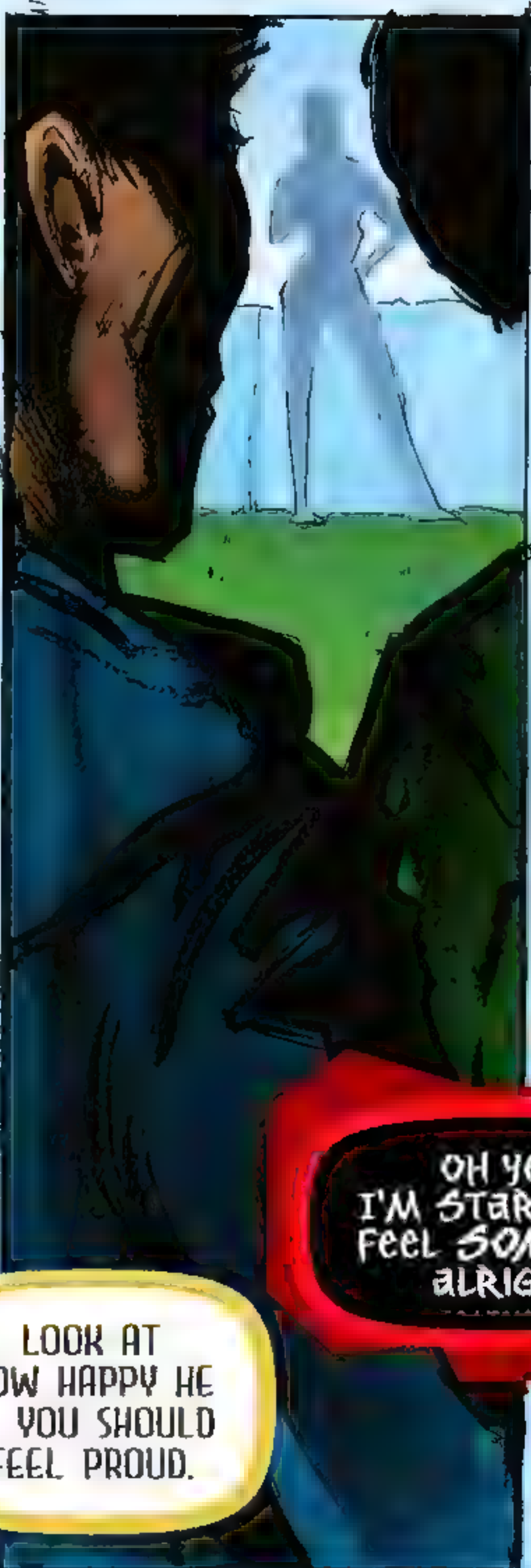
KNEW I SHOULDA STAYED HOME.





YOUR ADVERSE FEELINGS TOWARDS WALKER DO NOT DIMINISH THE FACT THAT KARATE JOE IS APPRECIATIVE OF THEO'S EFFORTS.

LOOK AT HOW HAPPY HE IS. YOU SHOULD FEEL PROUD.



OH YEAH, I'M STARTING TO FEEL *SOMETHING* ALRIGHT!!

DEV!



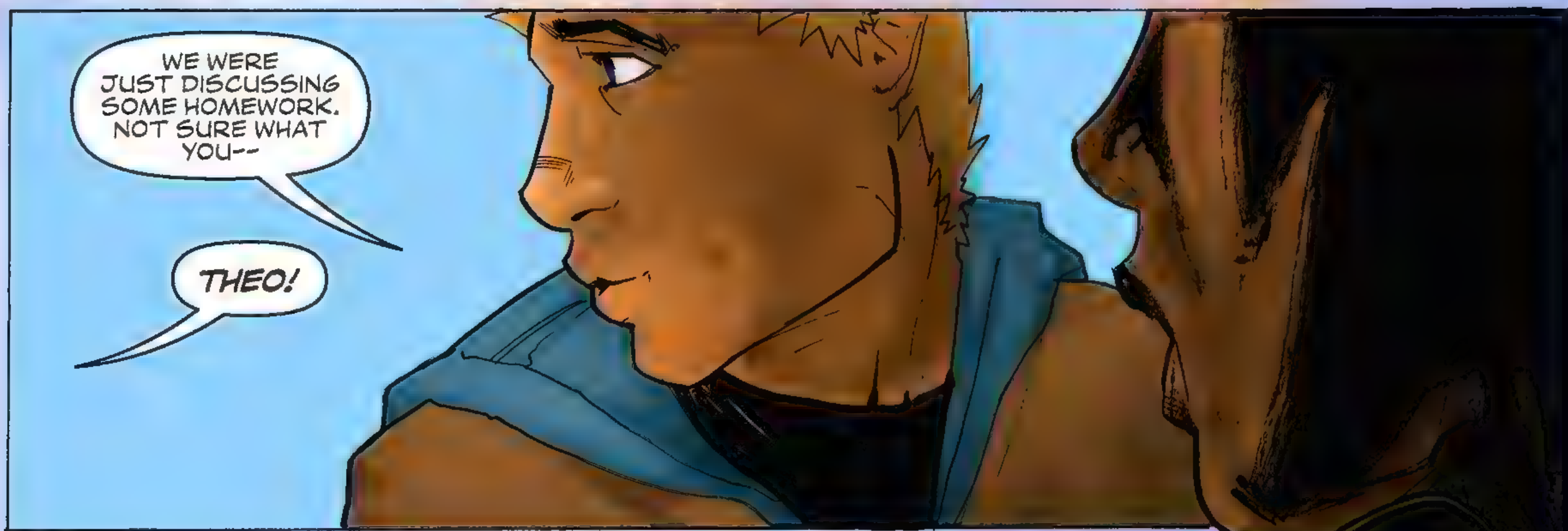
HI, THEO. JUST GET HERE?

HEY, LOU. YEAH, I HAD TO GET SOME OF THAT LAB HOMEWORK FINISHED. OUR FIRST TEST IS COMING UP.

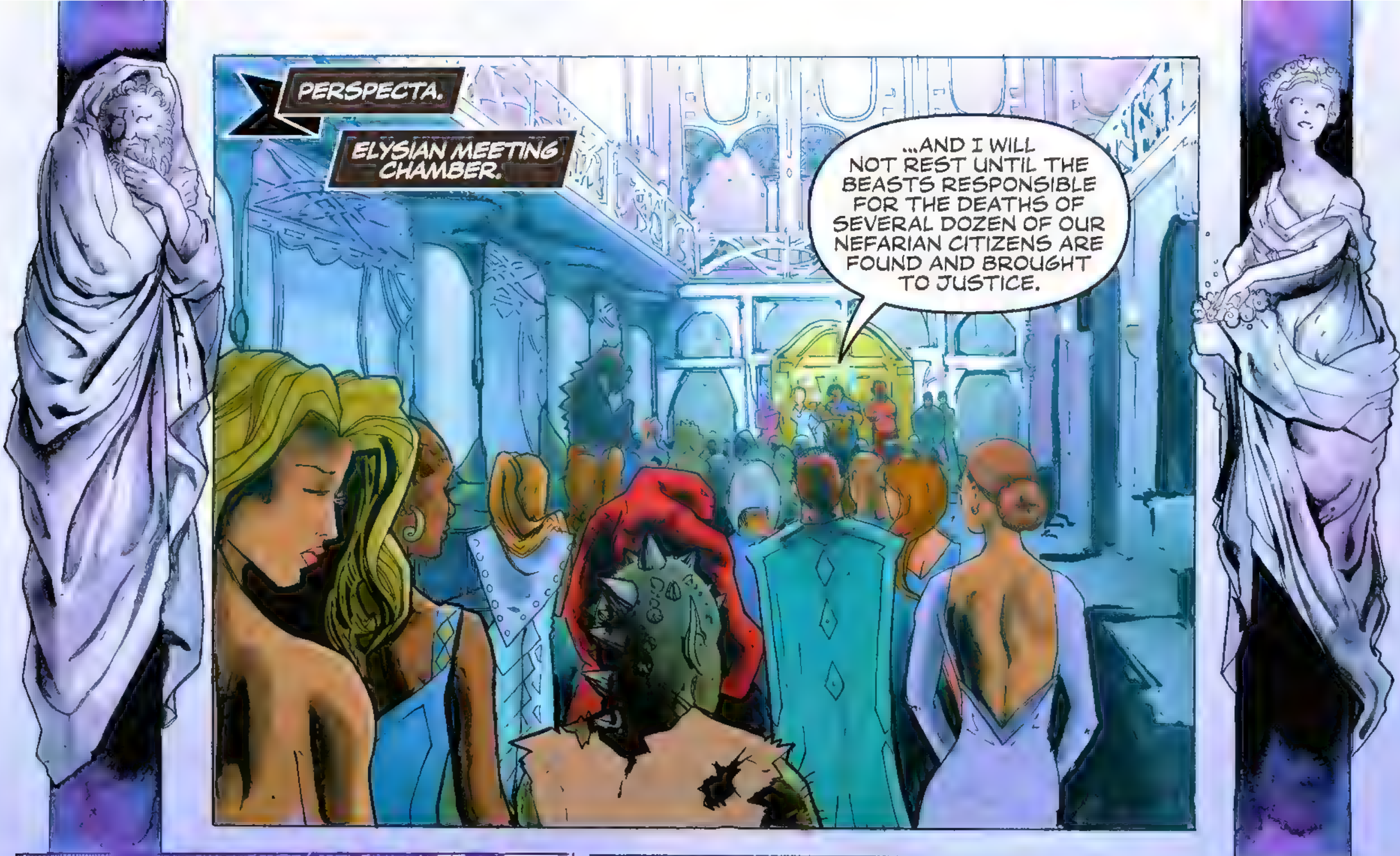


YOU'RE SO PREPARED. I COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR A BETTER LAB PARTNER.

YOU KEEP GETTING ALL OF OUR ASSIGNMENTS DONE LIKE THAT...









OUR SEARCH EFFORTS WILL BE DOUBLED AND I WILL BE LEADING THE FIRST SQUAD. I NEED YOU TO REMAIN HERE AND ASSIST THE ELYSIAN PEOPLE HOWEVER YOU CAN.

OF COURSE, LORD MAGNUSS.



I WILL STAY IN THE HALL FOR AS LONG AS I AM NEEDED. EVERYONE LOOKING FOR AID AND COMFORT WILL RECEIVE IT.



THANK YOU.

AND MARINA, UNTIL OUR SEARCH BEARS SUCCESS, STAY ALERT.

FAREWELL.

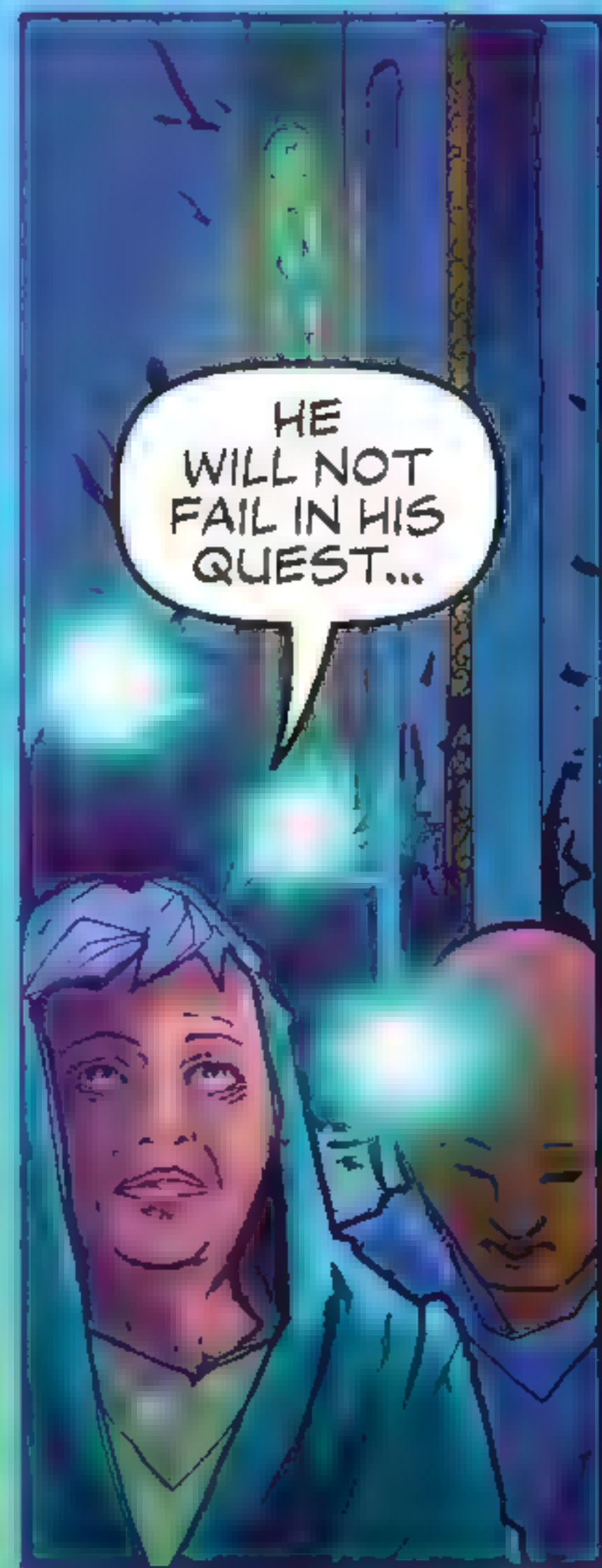


SUCH A HORRIBLE TRAGEDY. I DO HOPE LORD MAGNUSS AND THE GUARDS ARE ABLE TO FIND THE ONES WHO DID THIS.



I AM QUITE SURE THEY WILL.

EVEN BEFORE MAGNUSS BECAME OUR NEW HIGH LEADER, HE WAS ELYSIA'S MOST ESTEEMED GUARDIAN.



HE WILL NOT FAIL IN HIS QUEST...



...AND OUR SAFETY...

...WILL
NEVER BE IN
QUESTION??

GAARRRAA

AATAAACCKK!

SKKKRRRR

RRRRRRGGG

OH MY--

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE
PAGES OF
 **SHREDDED**
#3

#3 10 FEB 10
COVER A

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#3 10 FOR 10

COVER B

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Shredded 2



SHRUGGED
CREATED BY:
MICHAEL TURNER
AND FRANK
MASTROMAURO

MODERNITY

FRANK MASTROMAURO
JONATHAN MARKS
BETH SOTELO
JOSH REED

Our story so far...

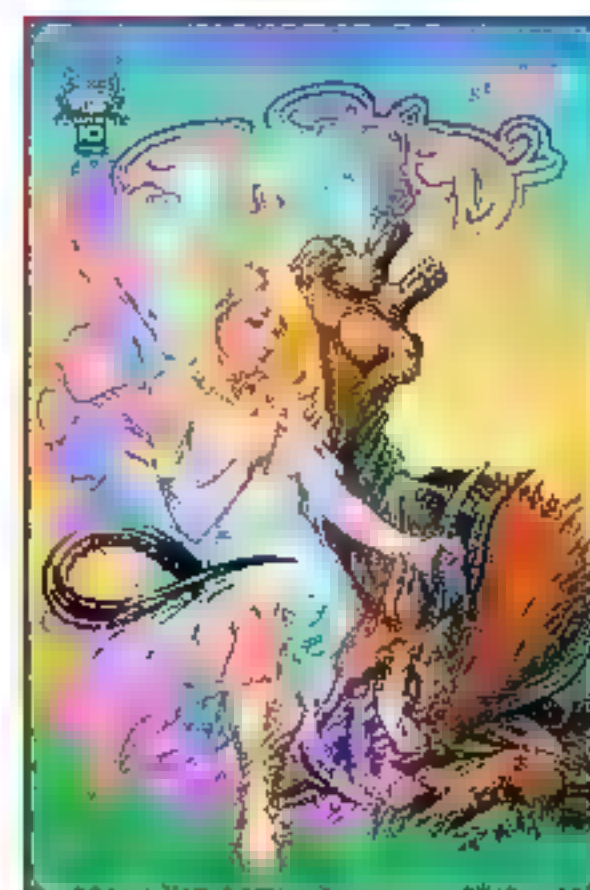
Theo learned the true nature of fear in class, as his new teacher, Mr. Scelus, taught him who's really in charge. However, it's nothing compared to the challenge of balancing several lady friends at one time--as Theo discovered firsthand. Meanwhile, a deadly peril rose in Perspecta, as the Elysian Meeting Chamber, a hall of purity and goodwill, was drenched in the shadow of a menacing evil that threatens to consume everything--and everyone--in sight...

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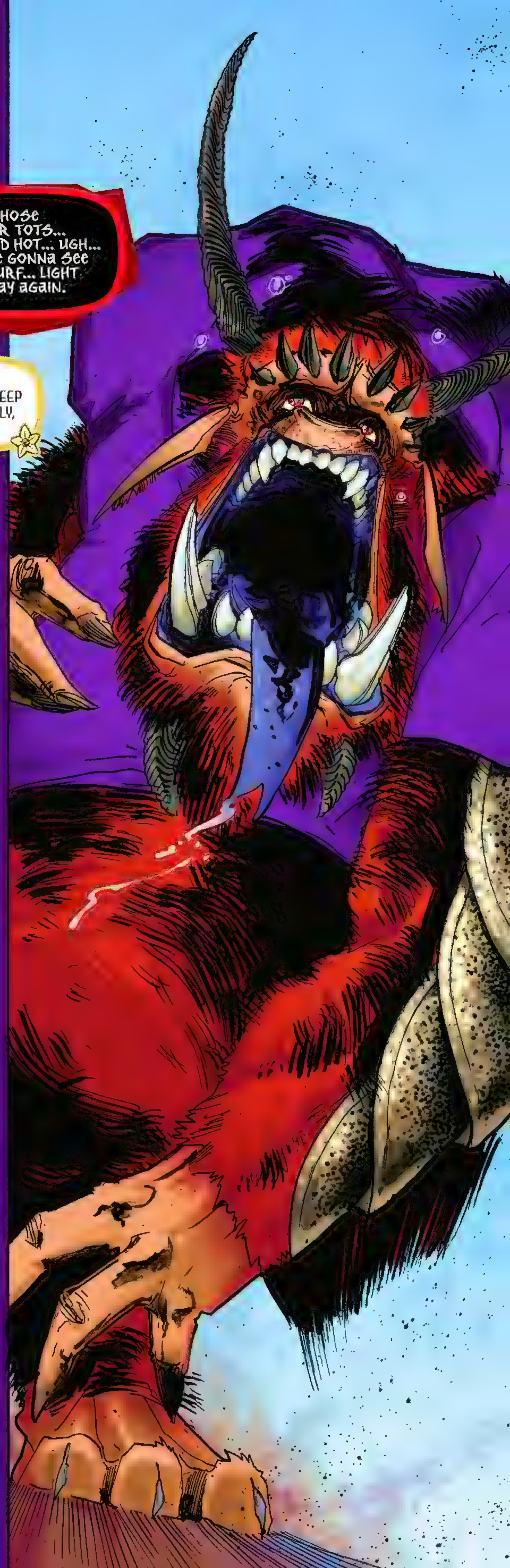
EDITOR: VINCE HERNANDEZ
DESIGN AND PRODUCTION: MARK ROSLAN,
PETER STEIGERWALD, JOSH REED
ORIGINAL CHARACTER DESIGNS: MICHAEL CUNNELL
LETTERING FONT DESIGNED BY: DREAMER DESIGN



Here it...
UNNH... comes,
ange.

THOSE
TATER TOTS...
HUFF... AND HOT... UGH...
DOG ARE GONNA SEE
THE... URF... LIGHT
OF DAY AGAIN.

PLEASE TRY
YOUR BEST TO KEEP
IT IN YOUR BELLY,
DEVONSHIRE.



CENTRAL HIGH.

TRACK AND FIELD PRACTICE.

YOUR POOR CONDITIONING HAS ALREADY CAUSED THEO TO BECOME NAUSEOUS DURING OUR PREVIOUS TRACK PRACTICE. THE COACH WAS NOT PLEASED. MAINTAINING YOUR COMPOSURE THIS TIME WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED.

THE COACH CAN... UHHH... eat MY SWEATY SHORTS. I DON'T SEE HIS... PUFF... SCRAWNY BUTT OUT HERE RUNNING.

TRACK. WHAT A... ERGH... waste.

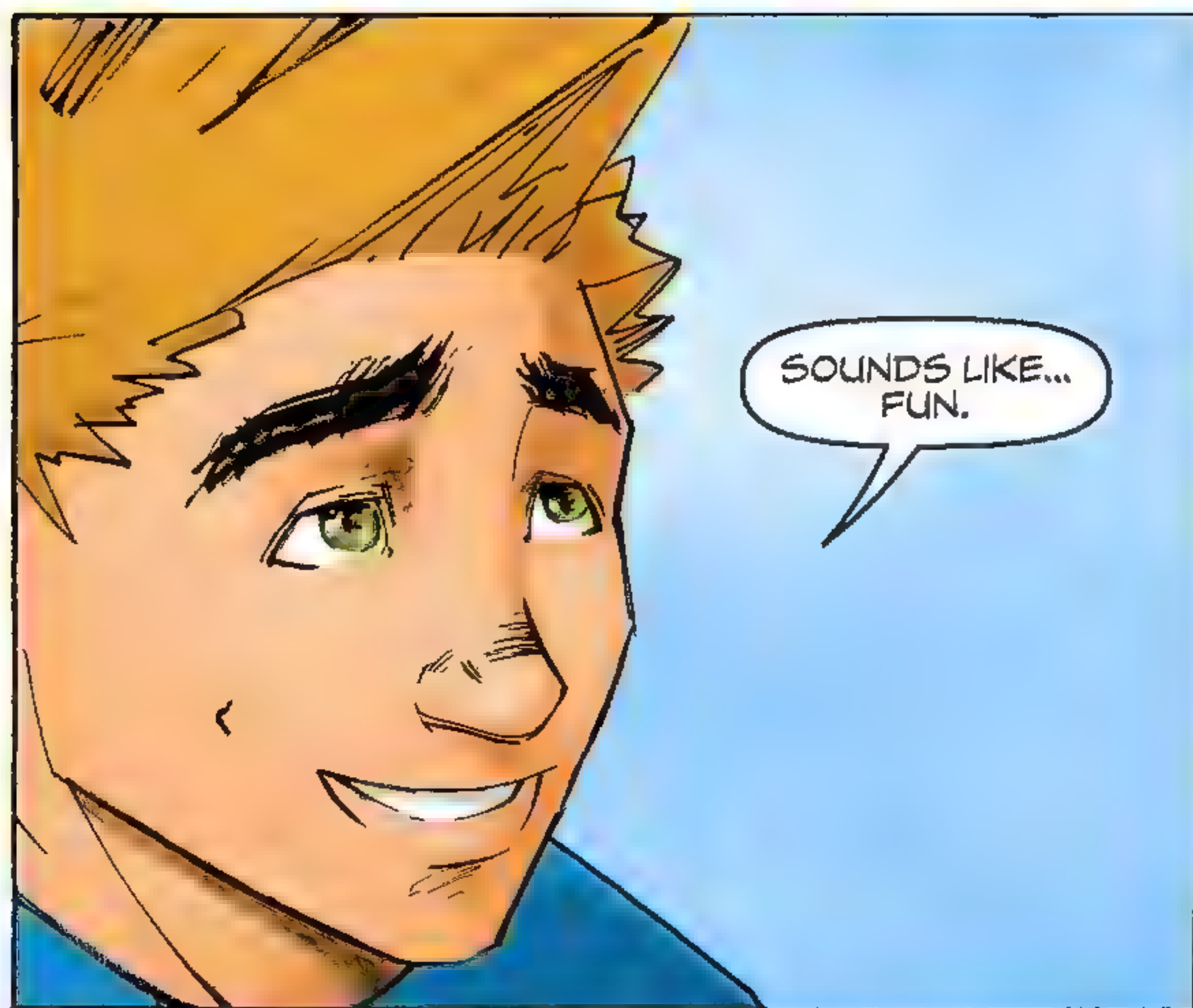
RUNNING IS NOT A WASTE! THEO IS A RESPECTED MEMBER OF HIS SCHOOL TRACK TEAM. NOT ONLY IS IT GREAT EXERCISE, BUT THEO COMPETES HARD TO WIN. WE NEED TO SUPPORT HIS EFFORTS.

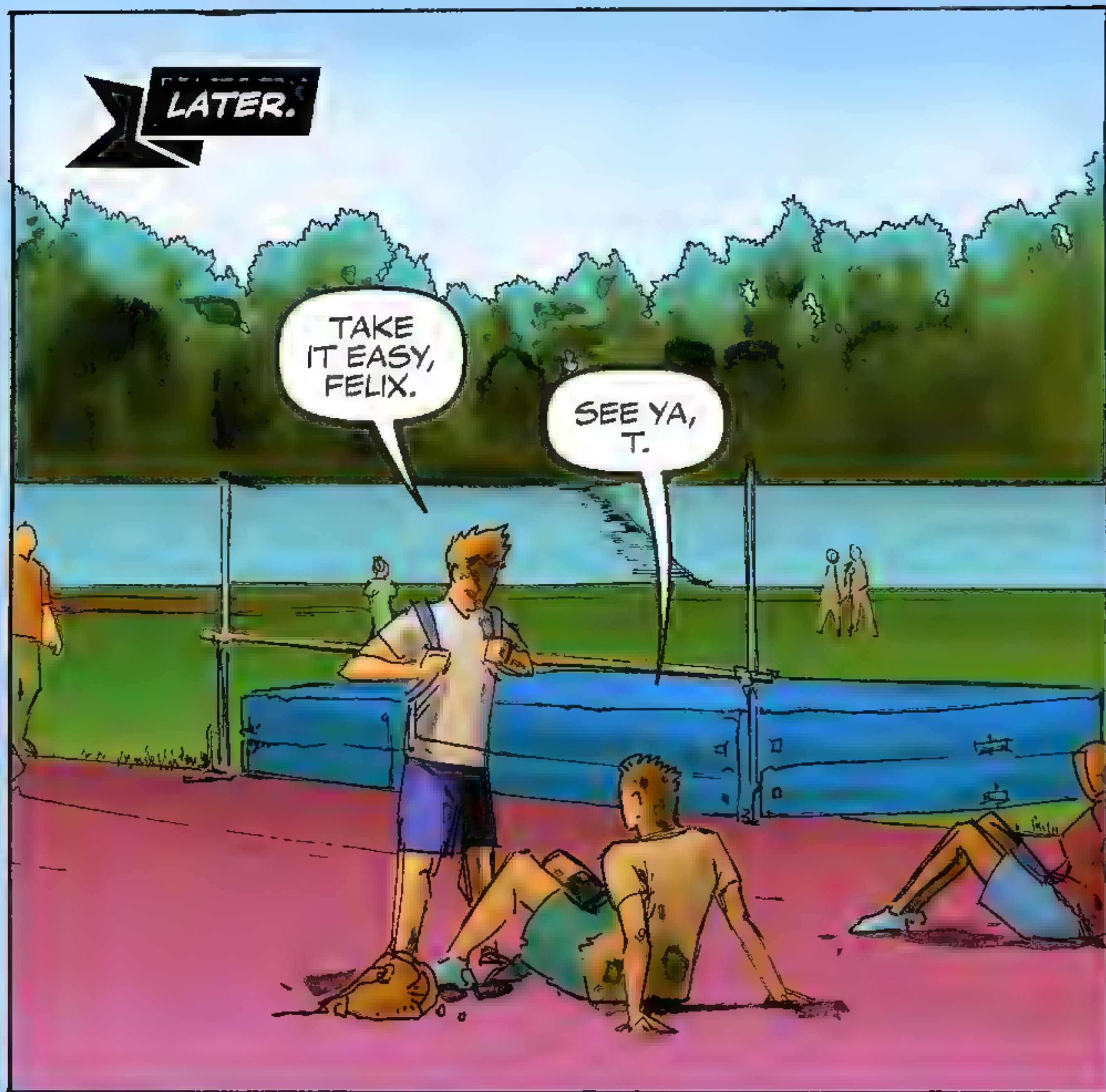
I ALWAYS SUPPORT THE KID. I'D JUST RATHER BE... HUFF... RIPPING OUT MY TOENAILS... UGH... THAN RUNNING.

BUT I WILL PUT IN SOME... UHH... EFFORT...

...FOR THAT.

HIYA... LOU.





TAKE IT EASY, FELIX.

SEE YA, T.



THAT WAS A FANTASTIC PRACTICE. WE IMPROVED OUR PACE AND THE COACH SAID OUR TRAINING IS PROGRESSING NICELY. WHAT GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT.

IT'S OVER. THAT'S ALL THE MOTIVATION I NEED. RUNNING AFTER LOU WAS A DEFINITE PLUS, BUT LET'S HIGHTAIL IT OUTTA HERE. THERE'S A SLICE O'PIZZA WAITING WITH MY NAME WRITTEN ALL OV--



HELLO, THEO.

MR. SCELUS?? UH, HI.

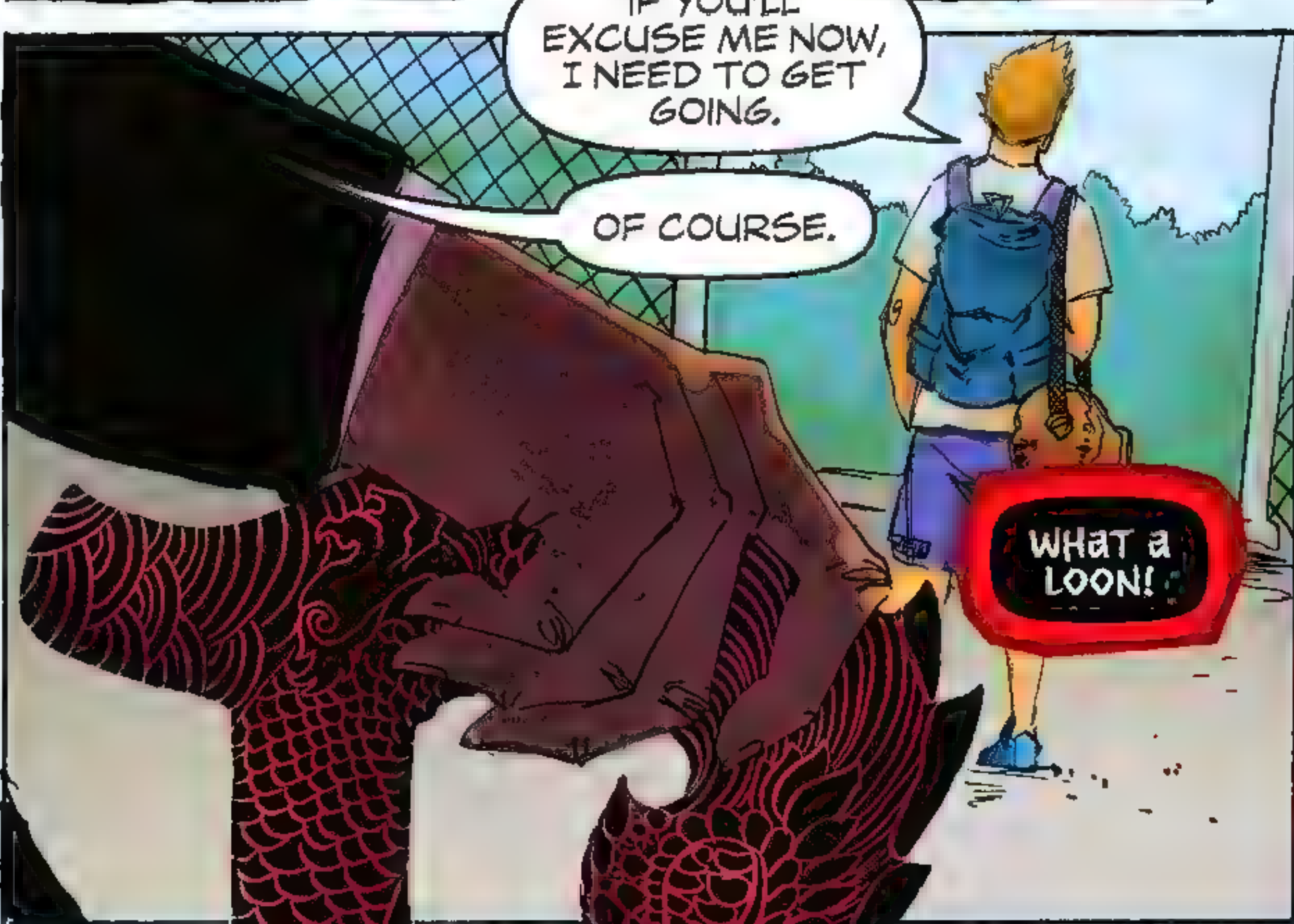
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH EXTRACURRICULAR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES. I'M JUST DOING MY PART TO HELP THE FURTHER EDUCATION OF YOUR GENERATION'S YOUNG MINDS.



WELL... THAT IS, UM, VERY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU.



IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME NOW, I NEED TO GET GOING.

OF COURSE.

WHAT A LOON!



THAT OLD FOGGY
REALLY NEEDS TO CHILL
ON THE THEATRICS. WE SHOULD
SWITCH CLASSES. I DOESN'T
NEED THAT WEIRDO IN
HIS LIFE.

THOUGH HE
DOES HAVE AN ODD
DEMEANOR, I THINK
MR. SCELUS PRESENTS
A GOOD CHALLENGE
FOR THEO.

IT IS OUR
RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP
GUIDE AND ASSIST THEO IN
HIS DECISIONS, NOT PERSUADE
HIM AWAY FROM THOSE THAT
MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR
HIM.

MAINTAINING THAT
BALANCE IS NOT EASY, BUT
WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO TRY.
OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DOING IT
FOR CENTURIES, AND I THINK WE
HAVE PERFORMED QUITE
ADMIRABLY SO FAR.

CAN'T DOUBT
YOU THERE. WE'RE
LIKE A DOPE SUPER
TEAM, TAKING OUR BOY
T HERE TO HEROIC
NEW HEIGHTS!

WE'RE GONNA
DO SUCH A GOOD JOB
IN FACT, THAT EVERYONE IN
PERSPECTA WILL PROBABLY
THROW US A HUGE PARTY
WHEN WE RETURN.

HECK, I BET
THEY'RE PLANNING
THE WELCOMING
PARADE RIGHT
NOW!

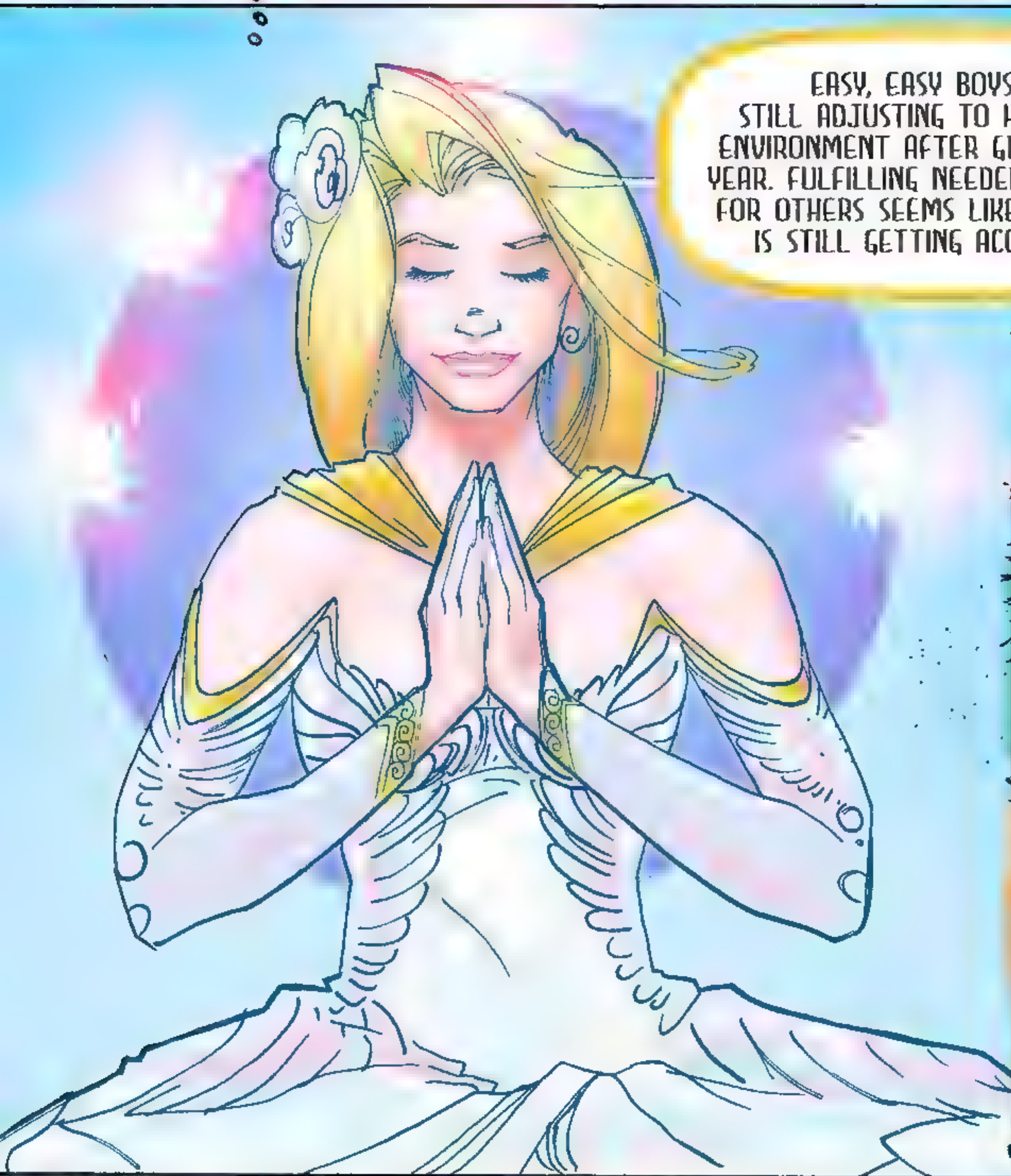
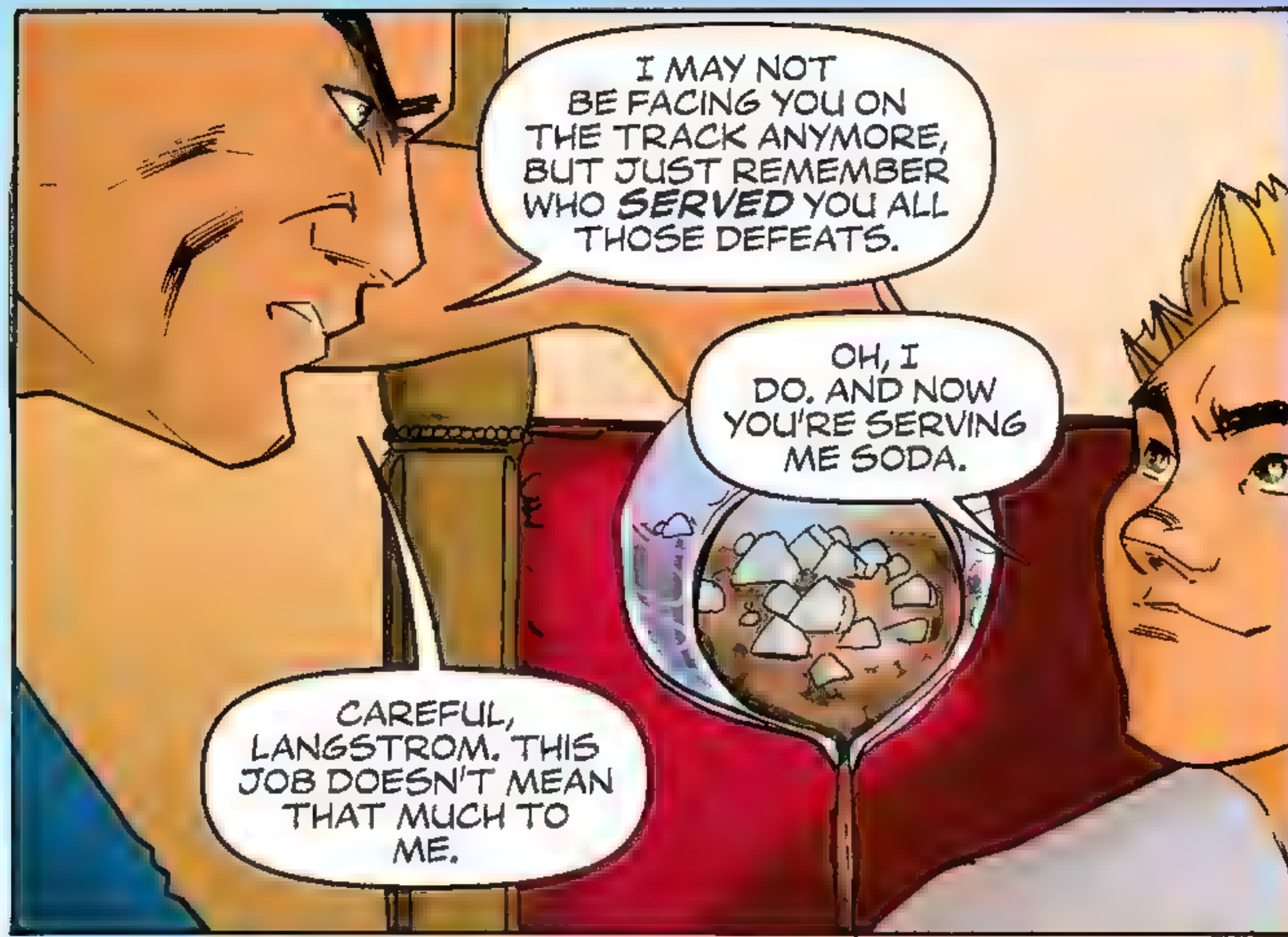
I ADMIRE
YOUR AMBITION,
BUT THOSE ARE SOME
LOFTY EXPECTATIONS,
DEV. I AM SURE IT
IS JUST BUSINESS AS
USUAL BACK HOME
TODAY.

YEAH, SUPPOSE
YOU'RE RIGHT.
BESIDES...

...NOTHING
EVER REALLY
GOES ON THERE
ANYWAY.









ANOTHER
EXQUISITE SHOWING
OF TESTOSTERONE
AT ITS FINEST.

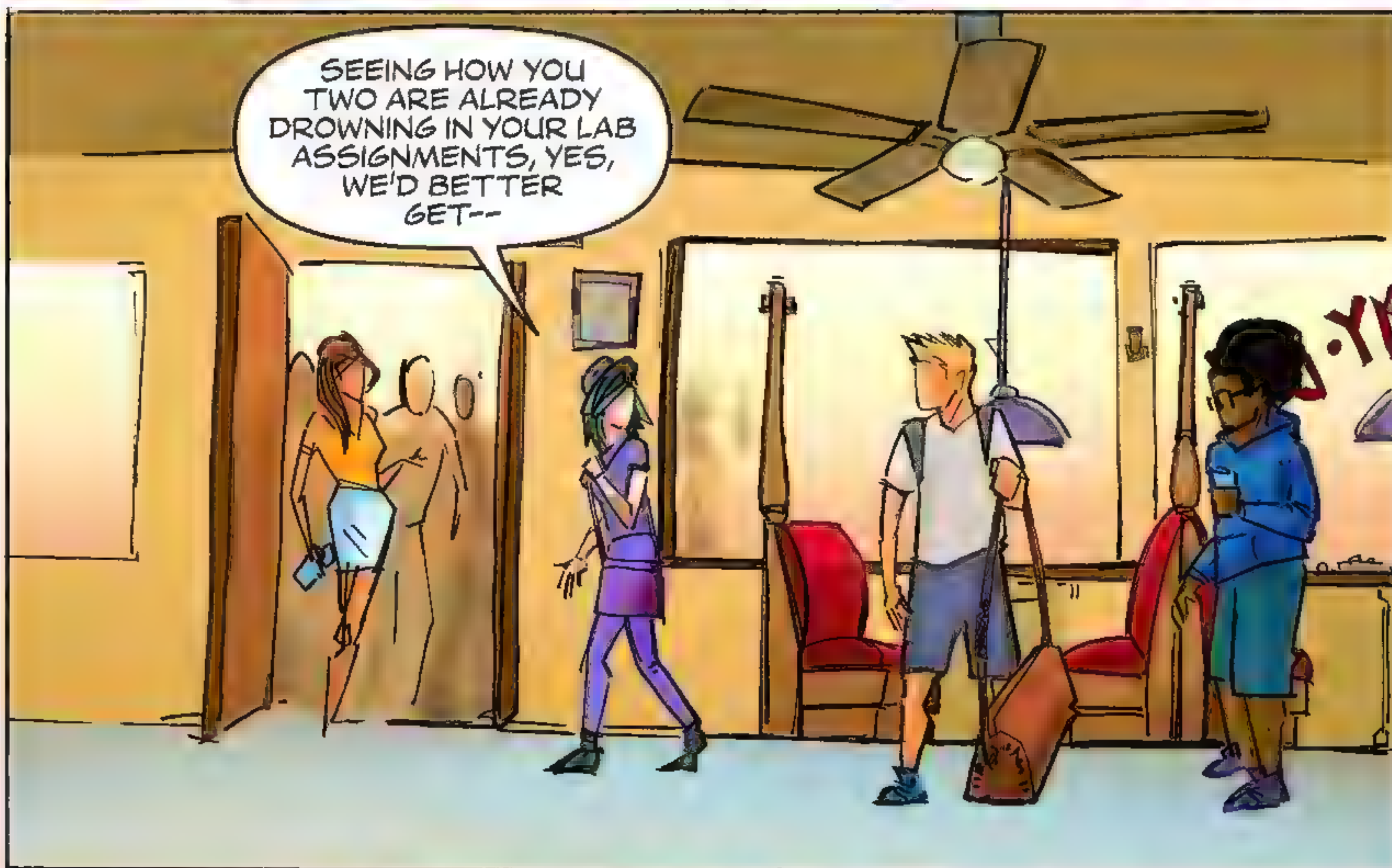
SMOOTH
ENTRY BY THE
WAY, THOM.



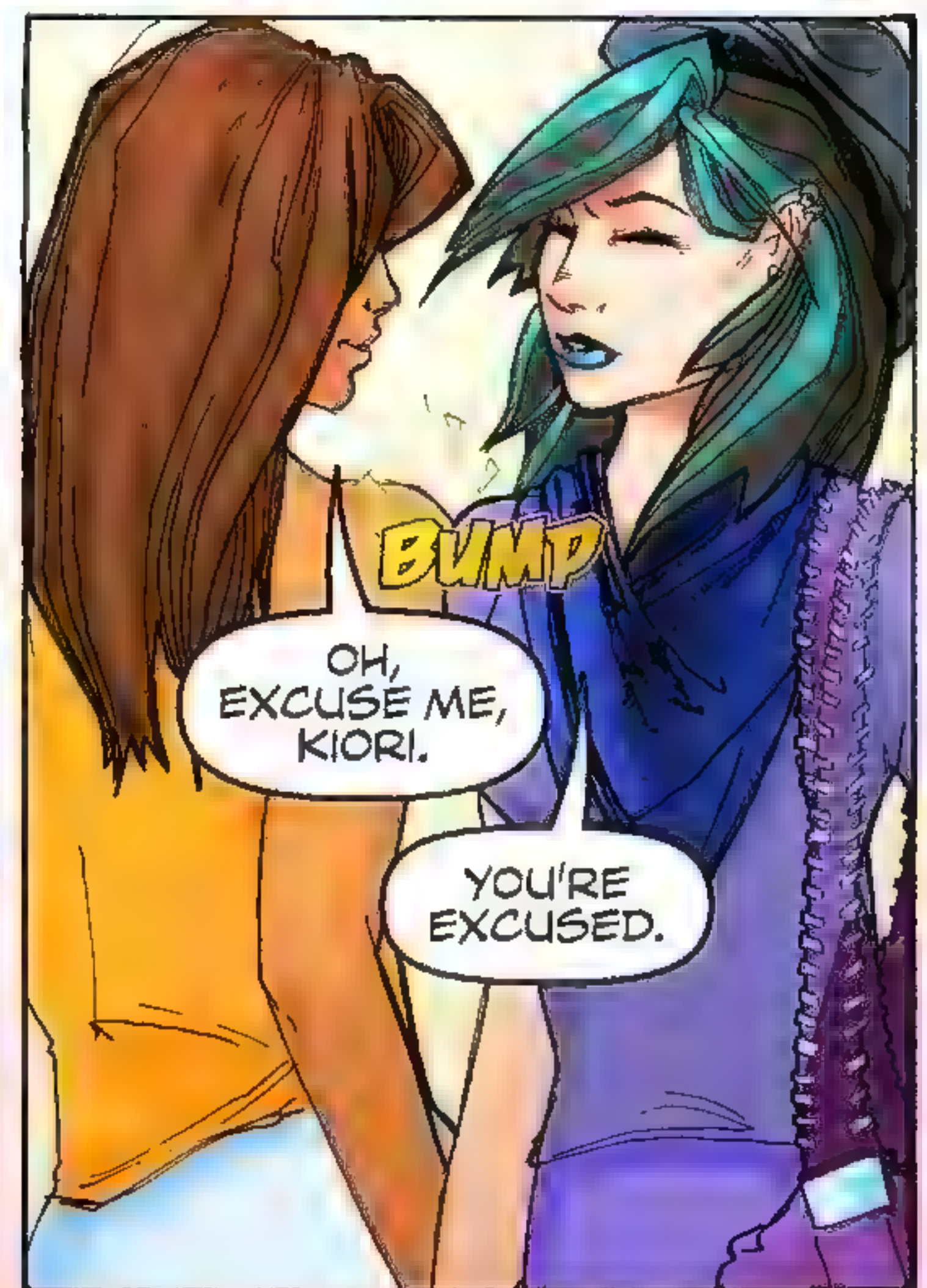
JUST KEEPIN'
THE PEACE AND
MY BUD INTACT
IS ALL.

DOESN'T MEAN
WE CAN'T TAKE SOME OF
THESE COOL REFRESHMENTS OUR
ESTEEMED WAITER PROVIDED US
TO ACCOMPANY THE JOURNEY
HOME THOUGH.

READY TO
ROLL?



SEEING HOW YOU
TWO ARE ALREADY
DROWNING IN YOUR LAB
ASSIGNMENTS, YES,
WE'D BETTER
GET--



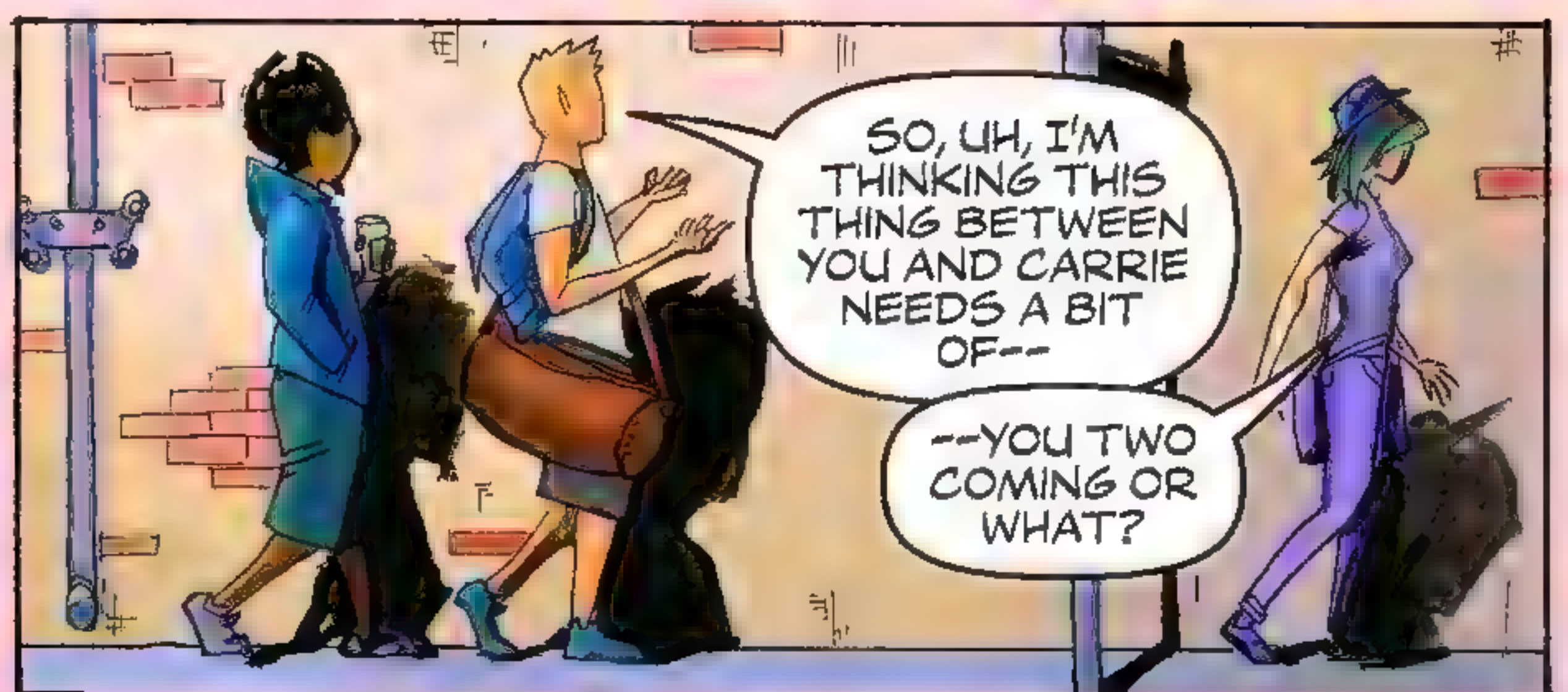
BUMP
OH,
EXCUSE ME,
KIORI.

YOU'RE
EXCUSED.



UM,
OK... SEE YA,
THEO.

YEAH,
SEE YA.



SO, UH, I'M
THINKING THIS
THING BETWEEN
YOU AND CARRIE
NEEDS A BIT
OF--

--YOU TWO
COMING OR
WHAT?

GEEZ. KIORI'S THROWING
AROUND THAT COLD SHOULDER
LIKE A LINEBACKER. WHAT'S
HER PROBLEM??

I AM
SURE SHE IS
JUST FINE.

BUILDING AN
ARTICULATE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN TWO YOUNG HIGH
SCHOOL FEMALES JUST
TAKES A BIT OF WORK.

HOWEVER, I AM GROWING CONCERNED
WITH THE LACK OF COMMUNICATION WE HAVE, OR
MORE PRECISELY, HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVING
FROM PERSPECTA TODAY.



NONE OF
MY PROGRESS
REPORTS HAVE
BEEN REPLIED
TO YET.

THEY'RE PROBABLY JUST
BEHIND AS USUAL. I DON'T GET
ANSWERS BACK FOR DAYS
SOMETIMES.

OUTTA MY
WAY!

RUN!!

AHHH!!!!

WELL, UNLIKE YOUR
PEOPLE IN NEFARIO, MY
ELYSIAN COUNTERPARTS
USUALLY REPLY RIGHT
AWAY.

SEE! NOW
YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S
LIKE TO BE ON THE OTHER
SIDE FOR A CHANGE,
SWEETHEART.

IT'S
ALL GOOD
THOUGH. MOST
LIKELY THEY'RE
ON BREAK...

NO!
PLEASE!!!

IT IS NOT
LIKE THEM TO GO
UNRESPONSIVE
LIKE THIS.

ARRGGHH...

...OR HAVE
VISITORS OR
SOMETHING.

I'M SURE
EVERYTHING'S
JUST FINE.

IF YOU DON'T
HURRY, WE'RE
GONNA DIE!!



YAAAGGHH!
I'M HURRYING!
THESE THINGS
ARE ALL OVER
ME!!



C'MON,
FLOBART! WE
GOTTA GET
INSIDE!

MOVE
THAT ASS
NOW!

SLAM!

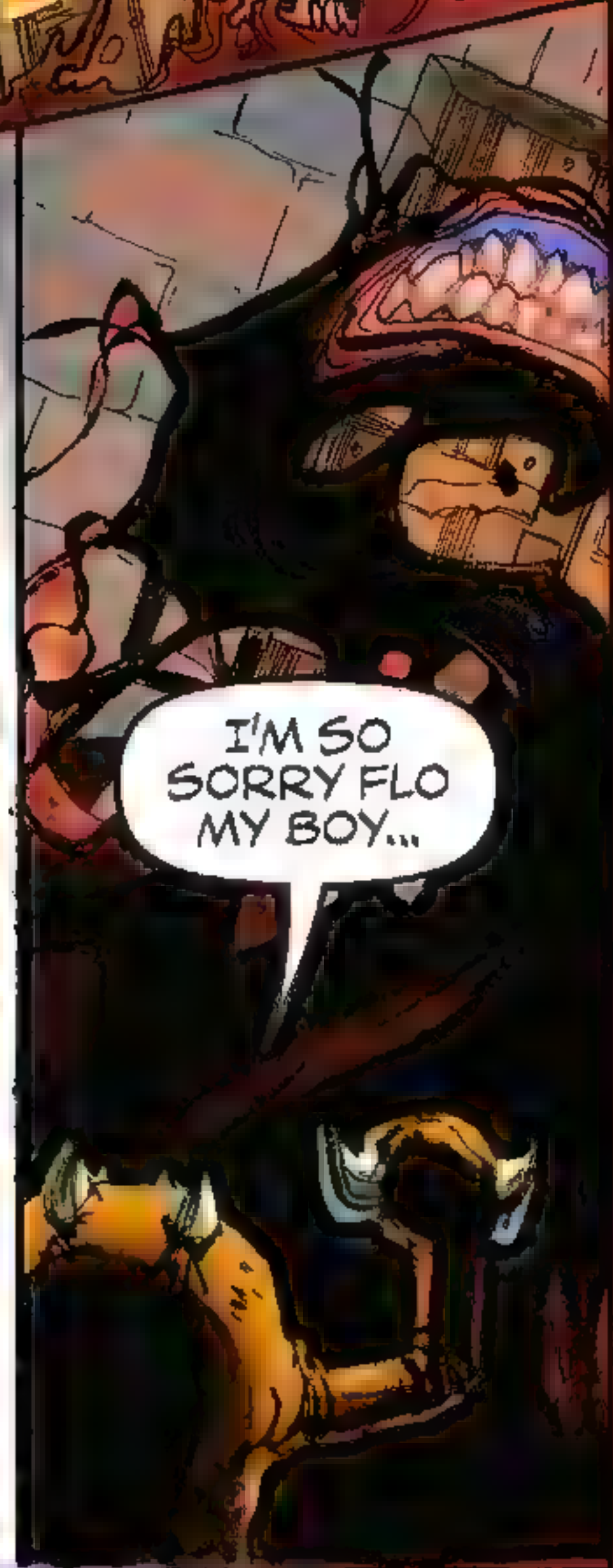


STAY
DOWN,
FLO!

ARE WE
SAFE, SNOOF?
IS THAT DOOR
GONNA...



...HOLD??



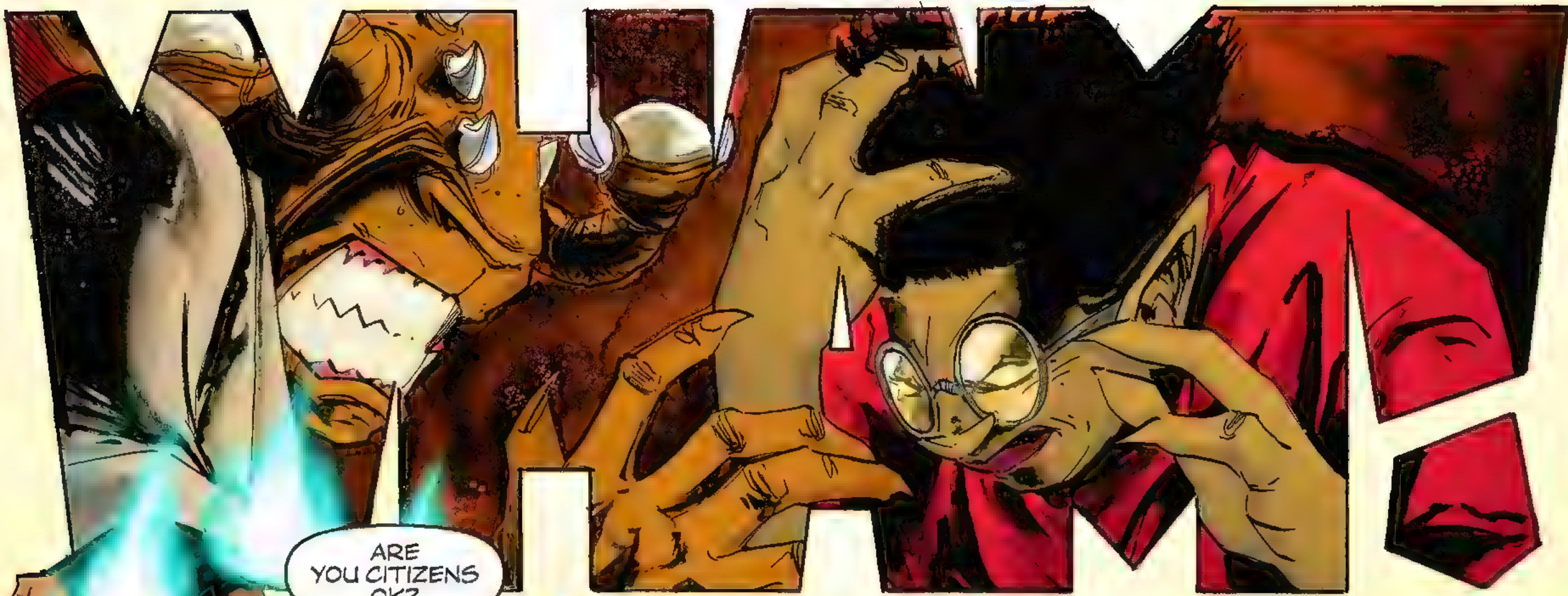
I'M SO
SORRY FLO
MY BOY...



...BUT I
THINK THIS
IS IT.

I LOVE YOU
MAN. YOU'RE MY
BEST FRIEND.

RRRRRAAAAGGGGGHHH!



ARE
YOU CITIZENS
OK?



LORD
MAGNUSS?!?
YES SIR, WE ARE.
THANK YOU YOUR
MAJESTY.

YOU TWO? YOU'RE THE
ONES WHO ALERTED US TO
THE SEVERITY OF OUR CURRENT
SITUATION. YOU'LL BE PLEASED
TO KNOW THAT WE LOCATED
YOUR TWO FRIENDS. THEY
ARE SAFE AS WELL.

UNFORTUNATELY,
I CANNOT SAY THE SAME
FOR MY BRETHREN. MANY OF OUR
FORCES HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMED
AND TAKEN DOWN BY THIS
EVIL ENTITY.

MY GUARDIAN
UNIT HAS BEEN
REDUCED TO JUST
THOSE THAT YOU
SEE HERE.



BUT, IT IS
GOOD TO FIND
ANOTHER ALLY
AMONGST THE
DARKNESS.



EVEN IF WE
ARE ALREADY
TOO LATE.

COME,
LOOK.





PERSPECTA!?

THE CITIES!
THEY'RE COMPLETELY
COVERED. WHAT ARE
THOSE THINGS??

IT'S THE
EMBODIMENT OF
FEAR. MANIFESTING
AND SPREADING LIKE AN
UNCONTROLLABLE
INFECTION.

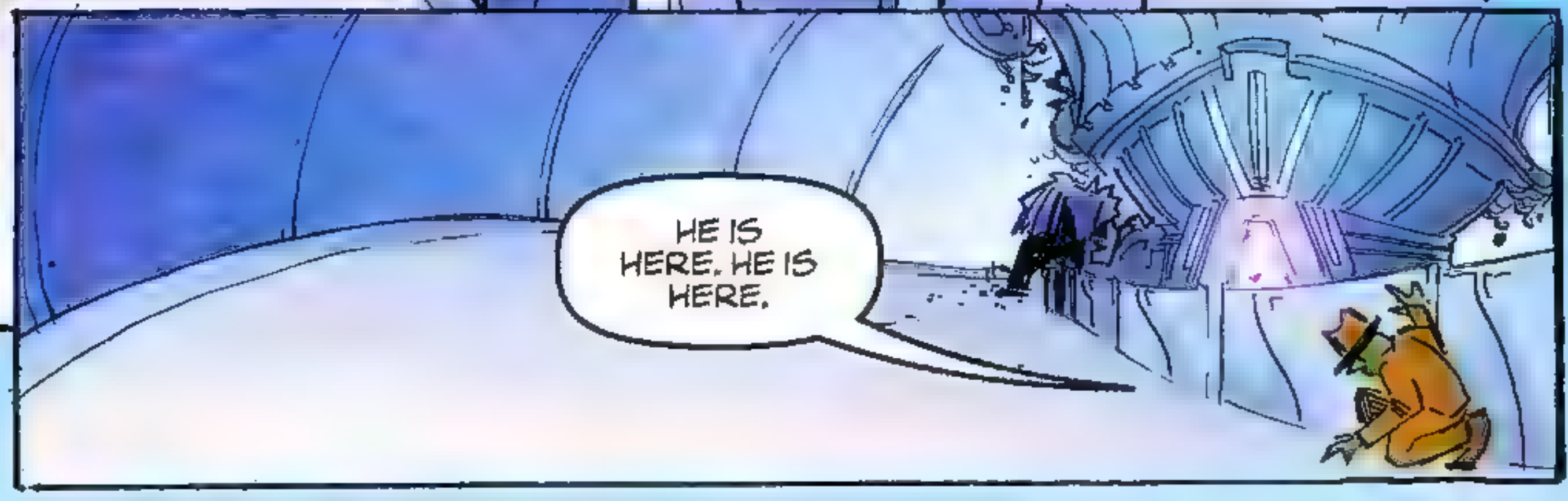
WE'VE
ENCOUNTERED
IT BEFORE, BUT NEVER
LIKE THIS. IT MOVES ALMOST
WITH A DIRECTION, A PURPOSE.
SOMETHING OR SOMEONE IS
CONTROLLING ITS
ACTIONS.

WE NEED
TO FIND THE
SOURCE AND
STOP IT...

...BEFORE
ALL HOPE IS
LOST.



THE TRANSFERSCENDING
CHAMBER.



HE IS
HERE. HE IS
HERE.



FOR MMYYYY
IMPRISONMENT...

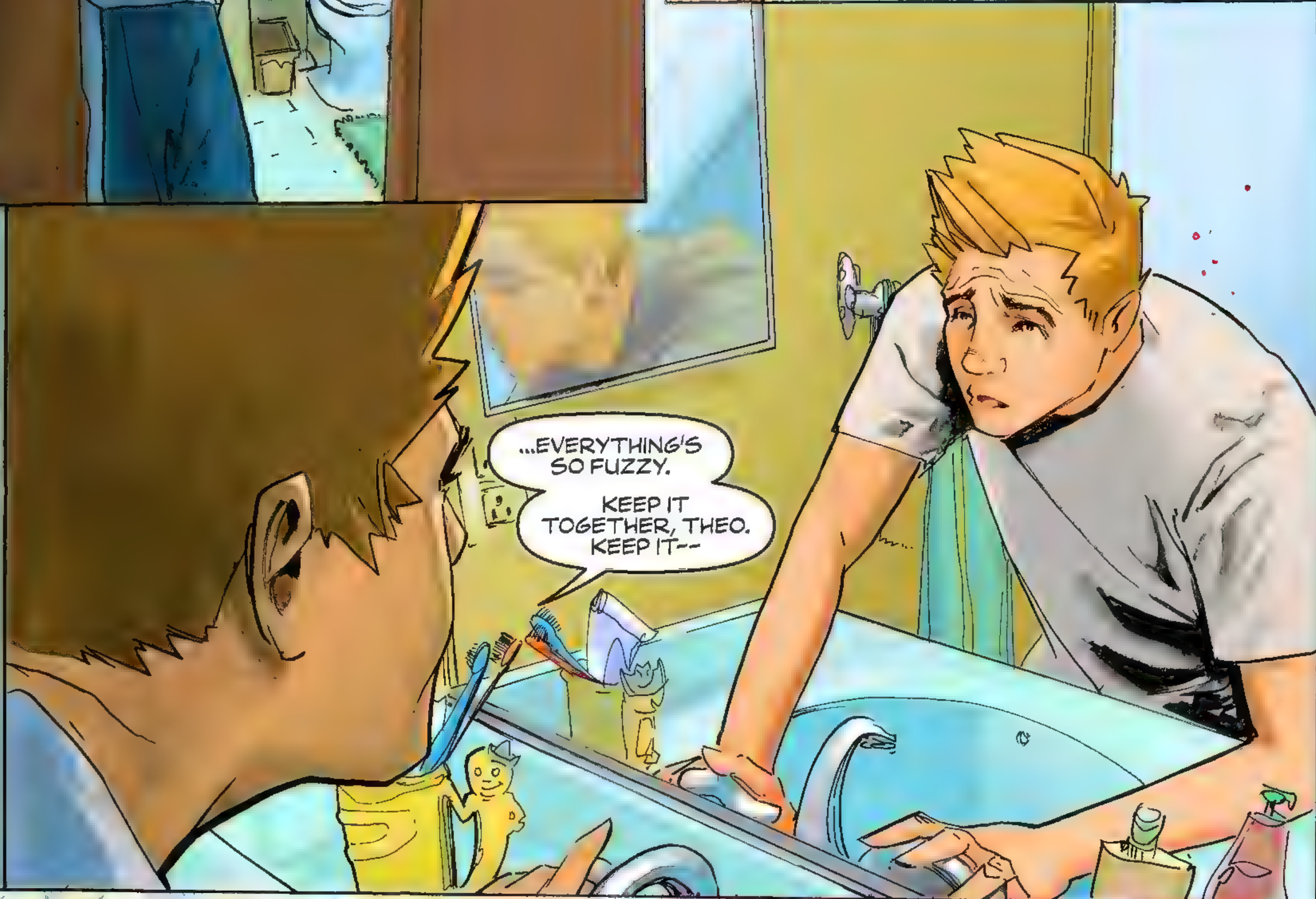
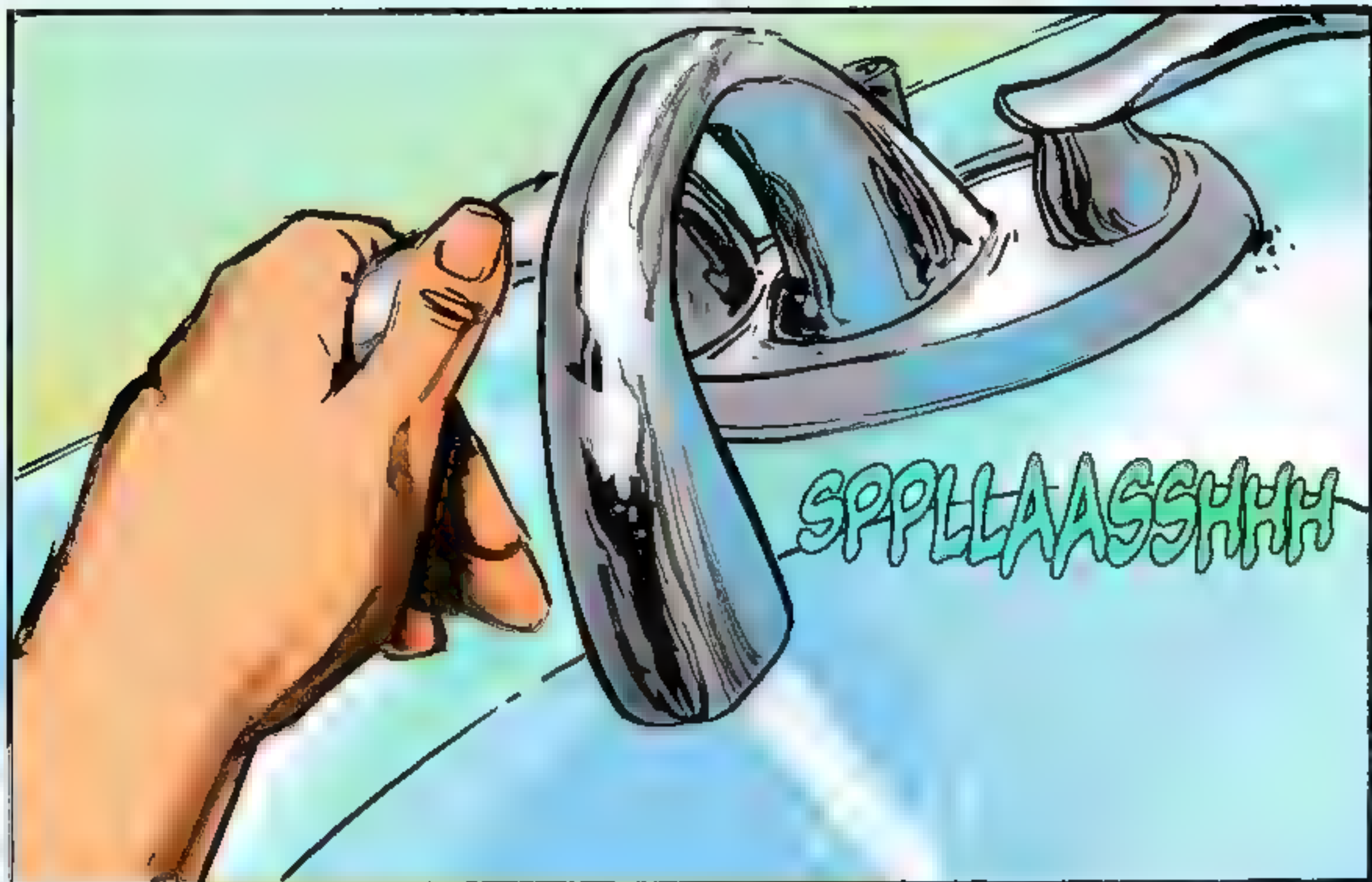
I NEED
TO INFORM THE
QUEEN. THE TIME
HAS COME.



...I RELEASSSE
THE CHAOS...

...AND NOW RULE THE
WORLD D D D D D D D D!!!

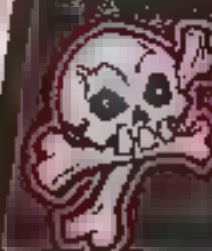






66RRRRRRRRRRR...

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE
PAGES OF 



SHRUGGED #4

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ASPEN COMICS!

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#4



COVER A

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COVER D

SHRIMP



SHRUGGED
MILITARY
MICHAEL TURNER
JOSH REED
MASTROMAURO

world

Frank Mastromauro

Jonathan Marks

Beth Sotelo
& Kyle Ritter

Josh Reed

war

Our story so far...

At track practice, Theo and Lou's relationship continues to grow, yet Mr. Scelus' unexpected visit didn't add to the occasion. Meanwhile, the threat in Perspecta has become unstoppable, with Lord Magnuss and his lone group of allies doing what they can to help save the citizens of the world. As Slive takes over Perspecta, Theo comes to find out things aren't going so well at home any longer either, as twisted versions of Ange and Dev manifest right before his eyes!

SHRUGGED
VOLUME II
ISSUE 4

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EARLY EVENING.

TODAY STARTED
OFF WELL ENOUGH.

SCHOOL WAS TOLERABLE.
TRACK PRACTICE WAS TOO.

THEN, LOU TOLD ME
SHE WAS COMING OVER
TO STUDY FOR OUR
LAB TEST TOMORROW.

NOTHING WRONG ABOUT THAT.
BUT NORMALLY, THE VOICES
INSIDE MY HEAD WOULD BE
ARGUING AND BICKERING OVER
DOING THAT HOMEWORK. NOT
TODAY THOUGH. TODAY...

KNOCK
KNOCK

CREEAAKK

THEO?!?



...IT'S A WHOLE LOT WORSE!

LOU... RUN!!



NOT
SO FAST,
DEAR.

SLLAAMM



WHY
DON'T YOU STAY
AWHILE?

DEV,
FETCH.

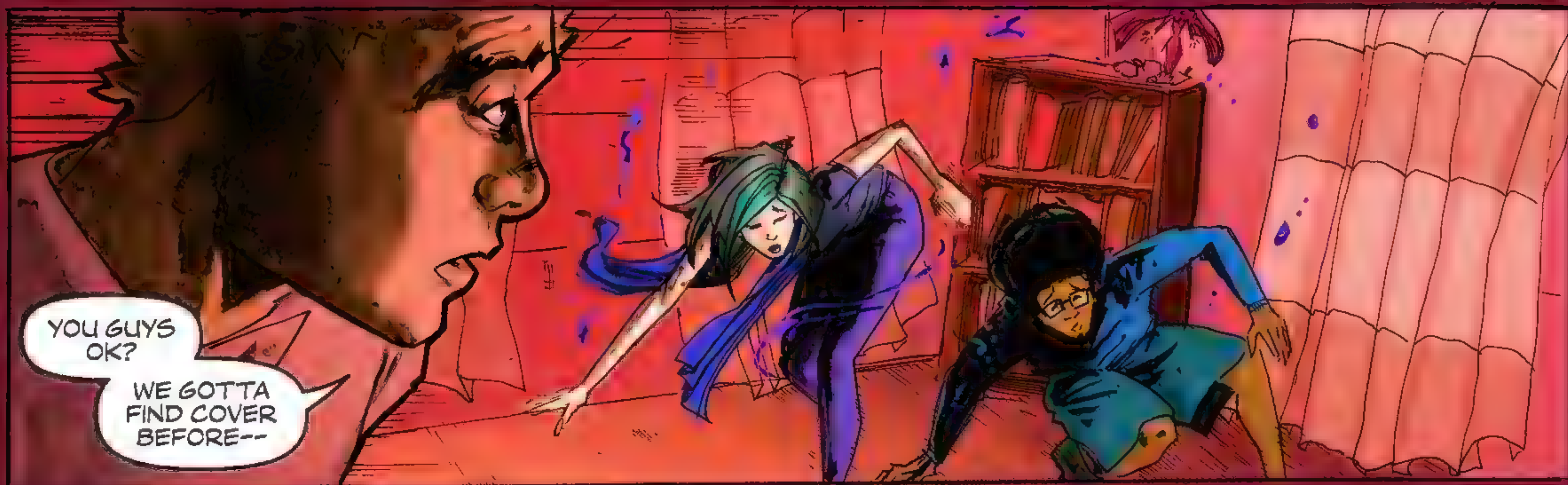


GGRRRRRRRR



GGRRRRRAAAHHHHHHHHH





YOU GUYS
OK?

WE GOTTA
FIND COVER
BEFORE---



OVER THERE!

GO GO!!



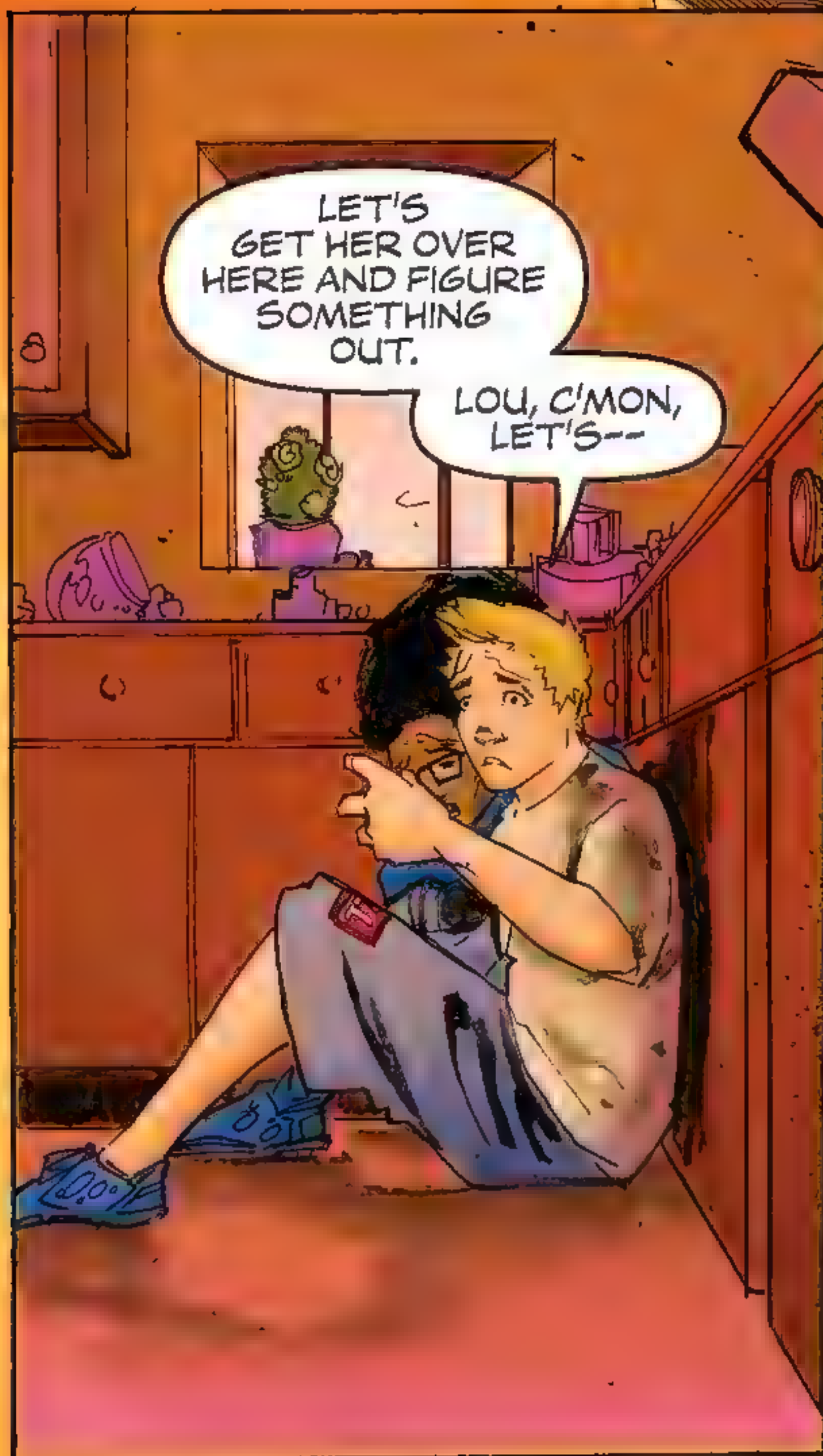
THEO,
WHAT'S GOING
ON??

THEM TWO
CATS HAVE
LOST THEIR
MINDS.

I'M NOT
SURE, KIORI. ANGE AND
DEV SHOULDN'T EVEN BE
HERE. IT'S LIKE THEY'VE
GONE CRAZY OR
SOMETHING.



AT
LEAST LOU
IS SAFE.



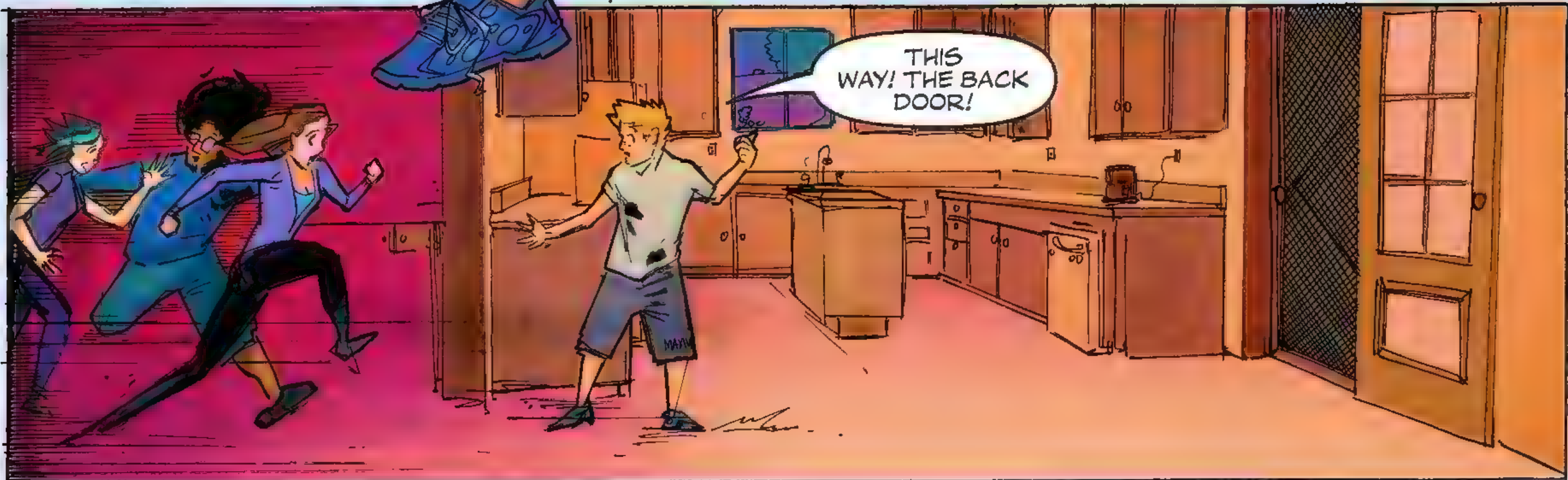
LET'S
GET HER OVER
HERE AND FIGURE
SOMETHING
OUT.

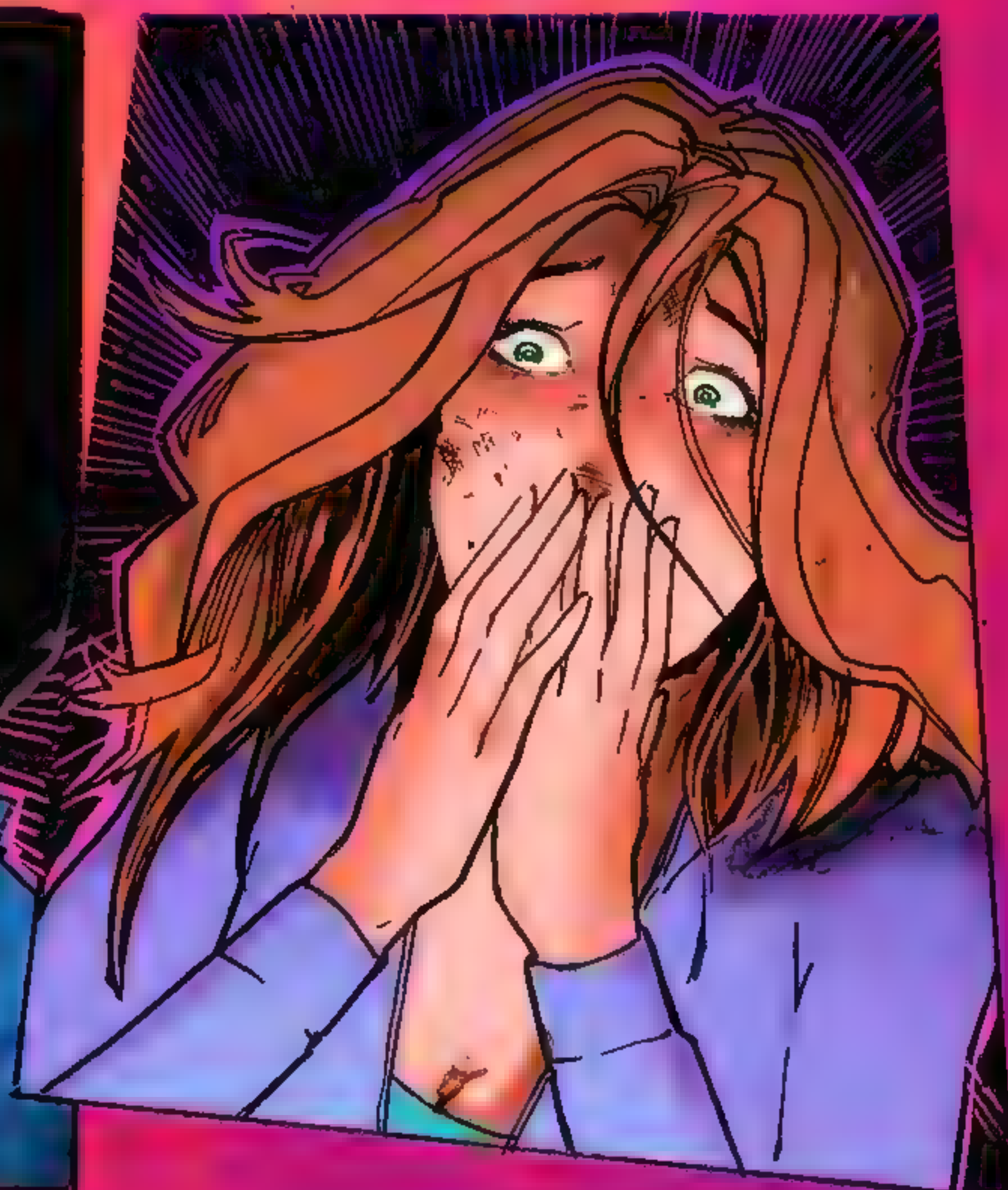
LOU, C'MON,
LET'S--

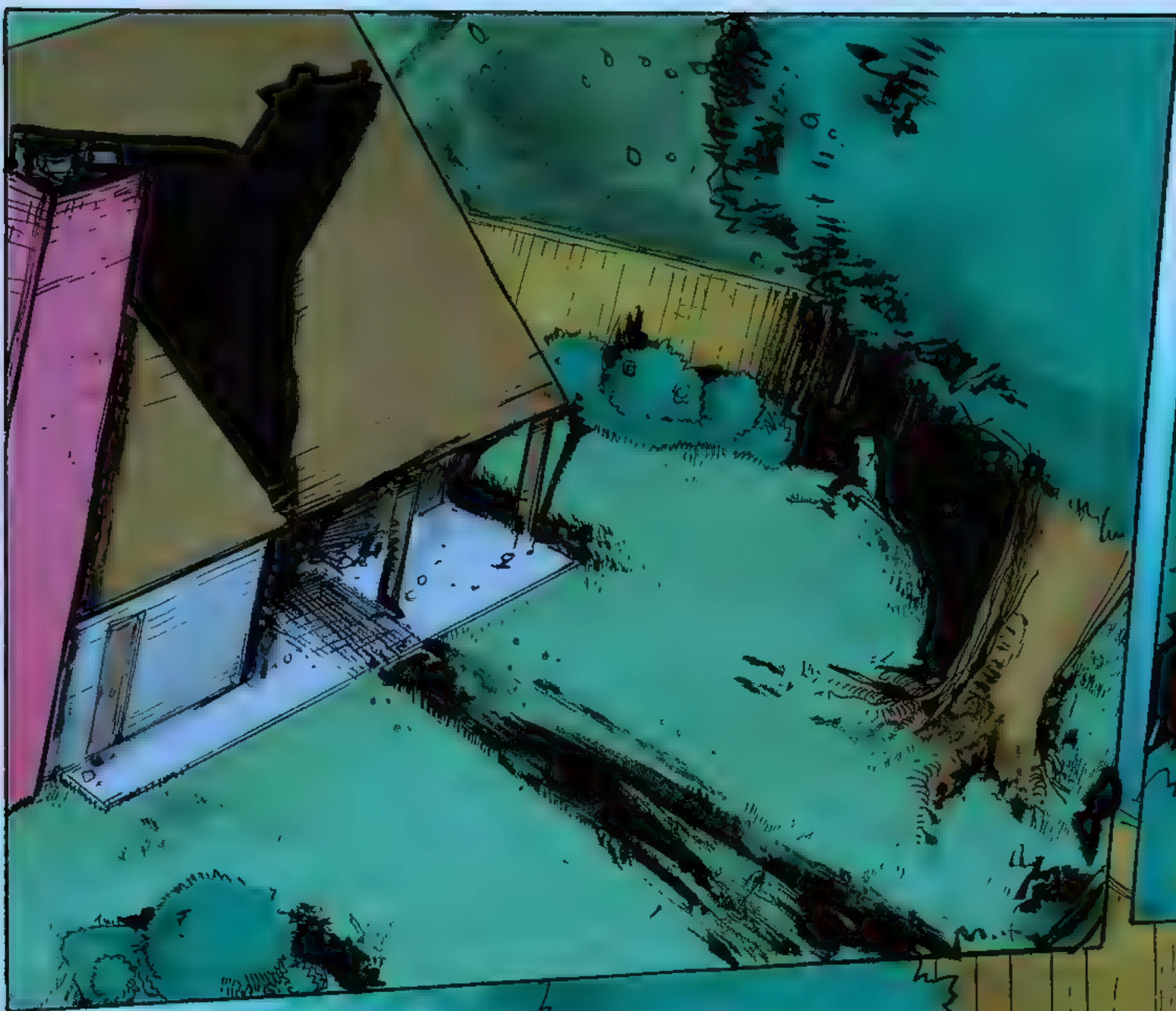


KKRRRAAAASSSSHHH

GGGRRRRHHHH







HOLY CRAP.

DAMN THAT HURT.
I SHOULD BE
DEAD. I THINK?

WHY ARE THEY DOING
THIS? I NEED TO FIND
OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED
TO THEM. BUT HOW?

NOT LIKE I CAN JUST PICK UP
THE PHONE AND ASK SOMEONE.
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? IT'S
USUALLY THEIR ADVICE THAT
I'M TAKING, AND NOW I'M
TRYING TO JUST STAY ALIVE.



GOTTA GET OUT
OF THIS YARD
FOR STARTERS.

FIND KIORI, THOM
AND LOU. SEE IF
THEY'RE ALRIGHT.



AND HOPE
THINGS DON'T
GET MUCH...



SEEMS
AS IF...

...WORSE?





...YOU COULD
USE SOME OF MY
ASSISTANCE.

YES?





LOVE THE
MAKEOVER, ANGE.
MY TURN.



YOU
NEVER COULD
TAKE ME.



YOU
GOOD, MY
MAN?



LATER.

SANTA MONICA.



I STILL
DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHY WE NEED TO DO THIS?
CAN'T WE JUST GO BY
OURSELVES?



I WILL NOT
EXPLAIN AGAIN
AND TIME IS OF
THE ESSENCE.
NOW...

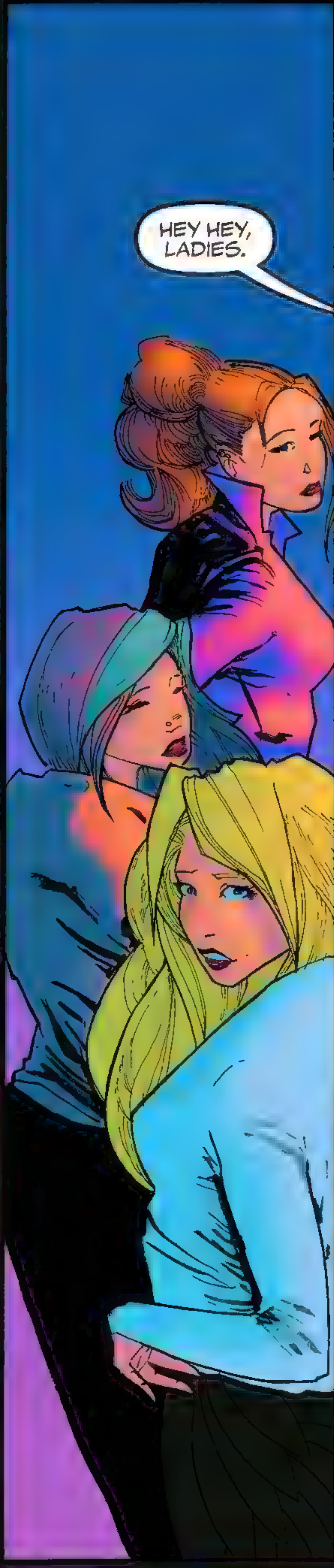
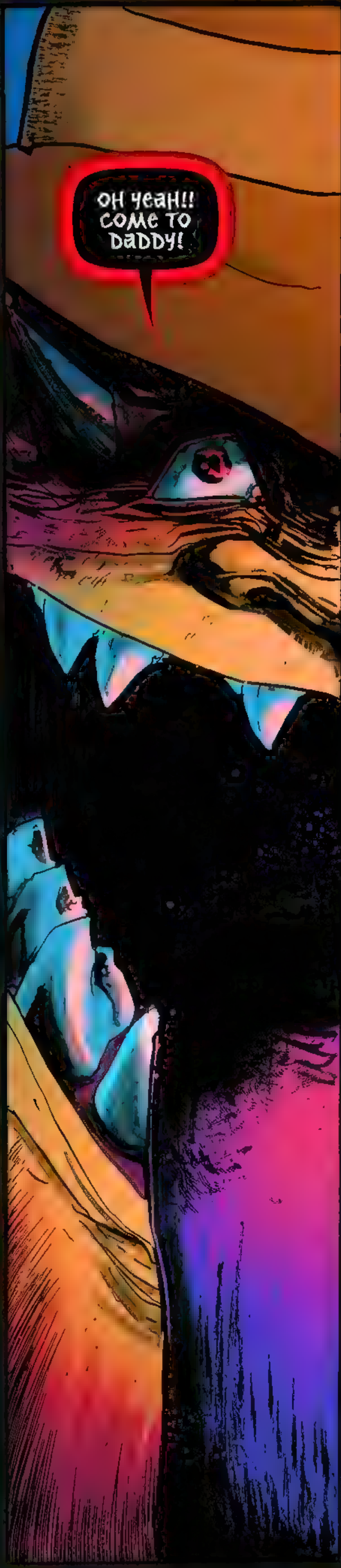
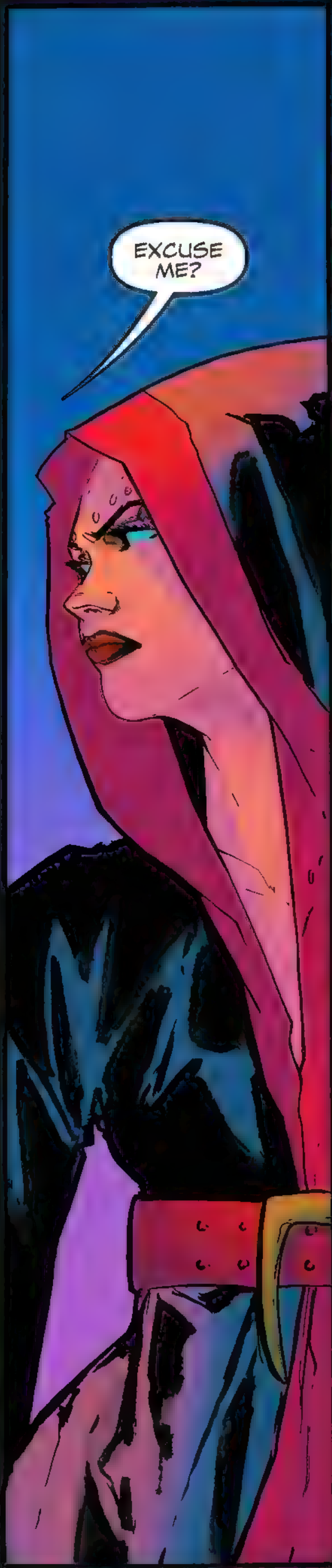


...GET
GOING...

...AND MAKE
SURE YOUR
FRIEND CARRIE
SAYS YES.









I'B DBIED
AD GON TB
HBVN!



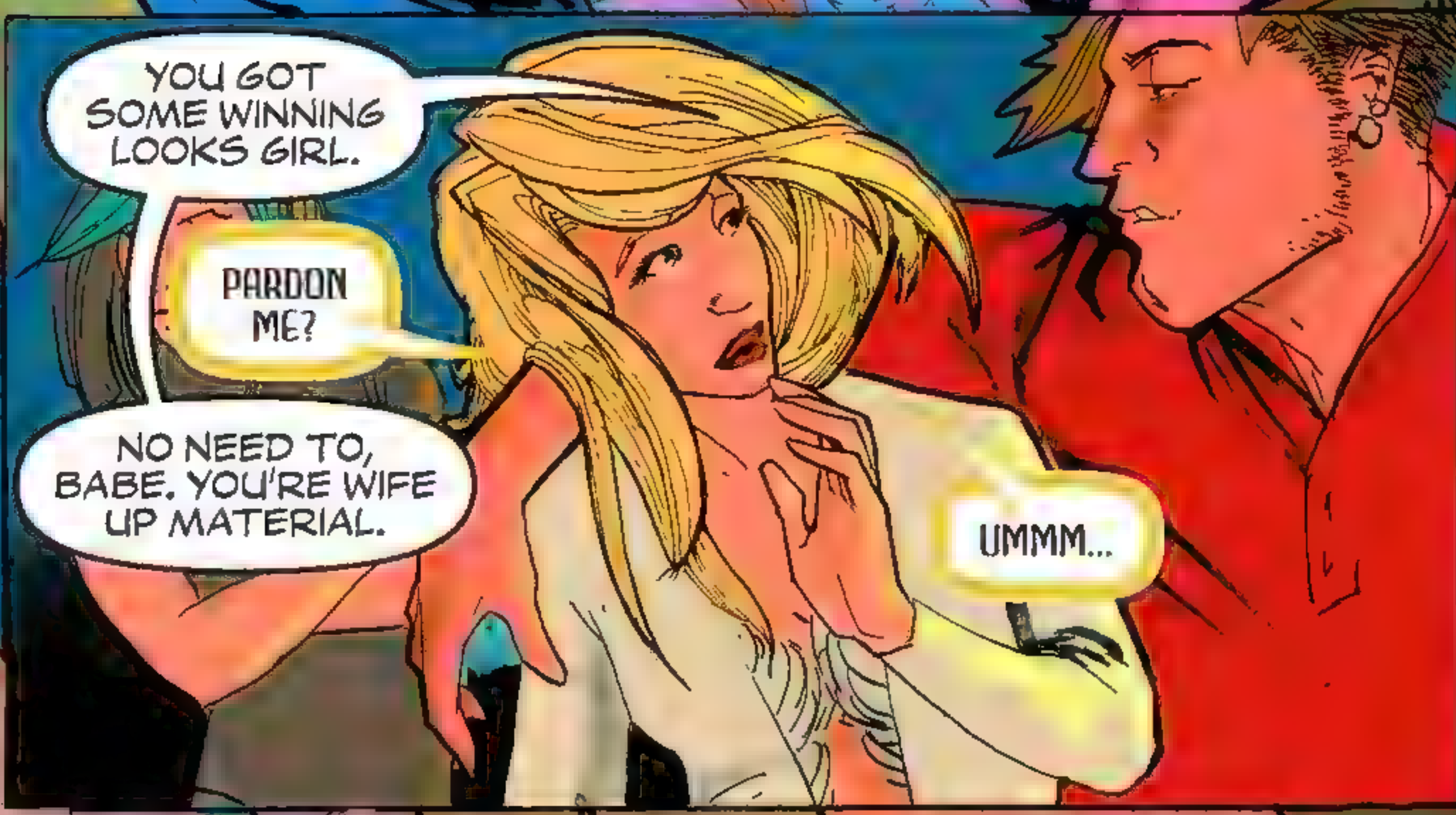
GOOD
EVENING, SIR.
WE'VE GOT LOTS
OF TASTY CHOICES.
WHAT CAN I DO
YA FOR?



HOW
YOU HUNNIES
DOIN'?

YO YO.
WE SPOTTED
YOU FROM HERE
TO THERE.

THINK'N
OUR THREE AND
YOUR THREE CAN
MAKE A PAIR. YA
FEEL'N ME?

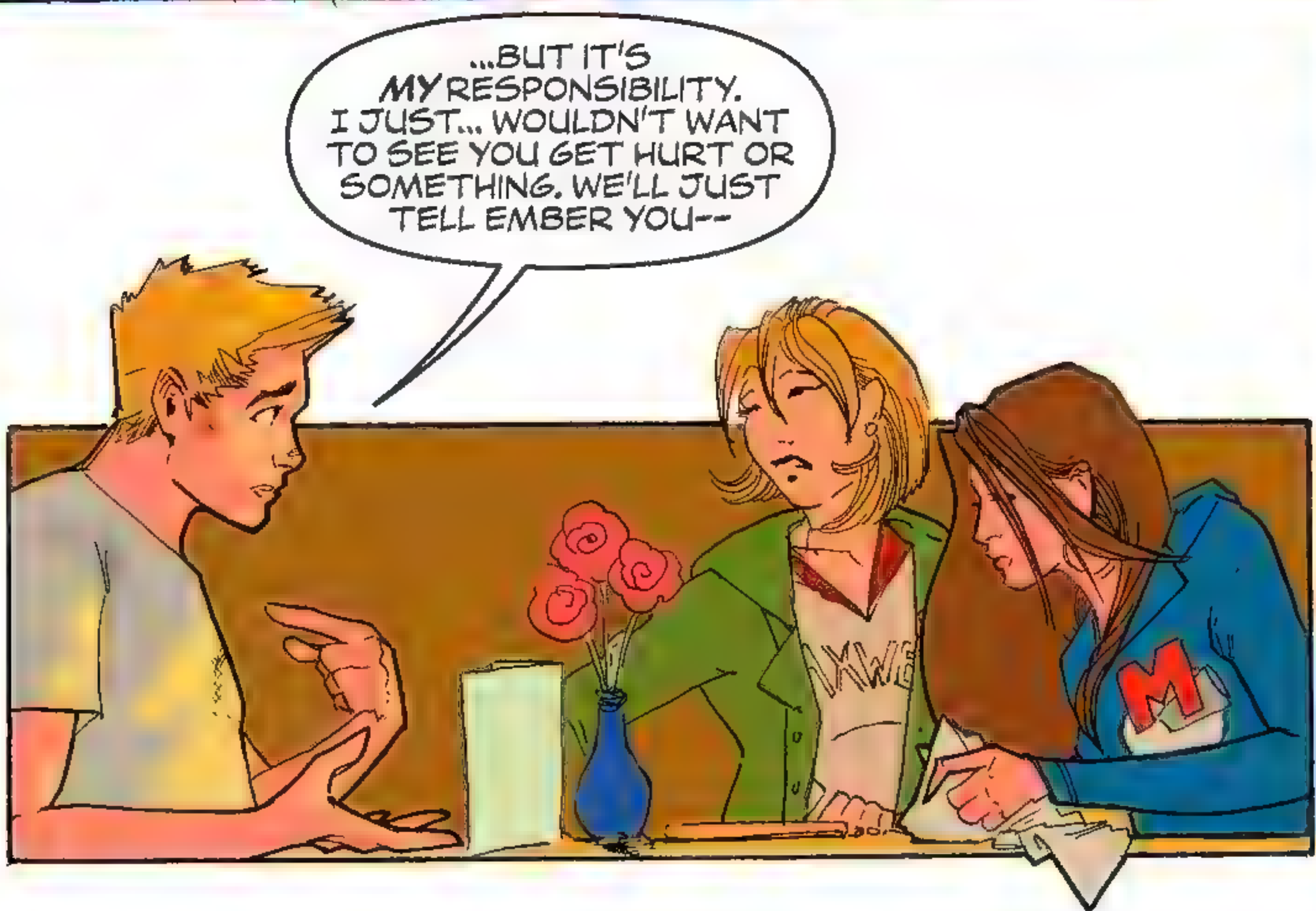


YOU GOT
SOME WINNING
LOOKS GIRL.

PARDON
ME?

NO NEED TO,
BABE. YOU'RE WIFE
UP MATERIAL.

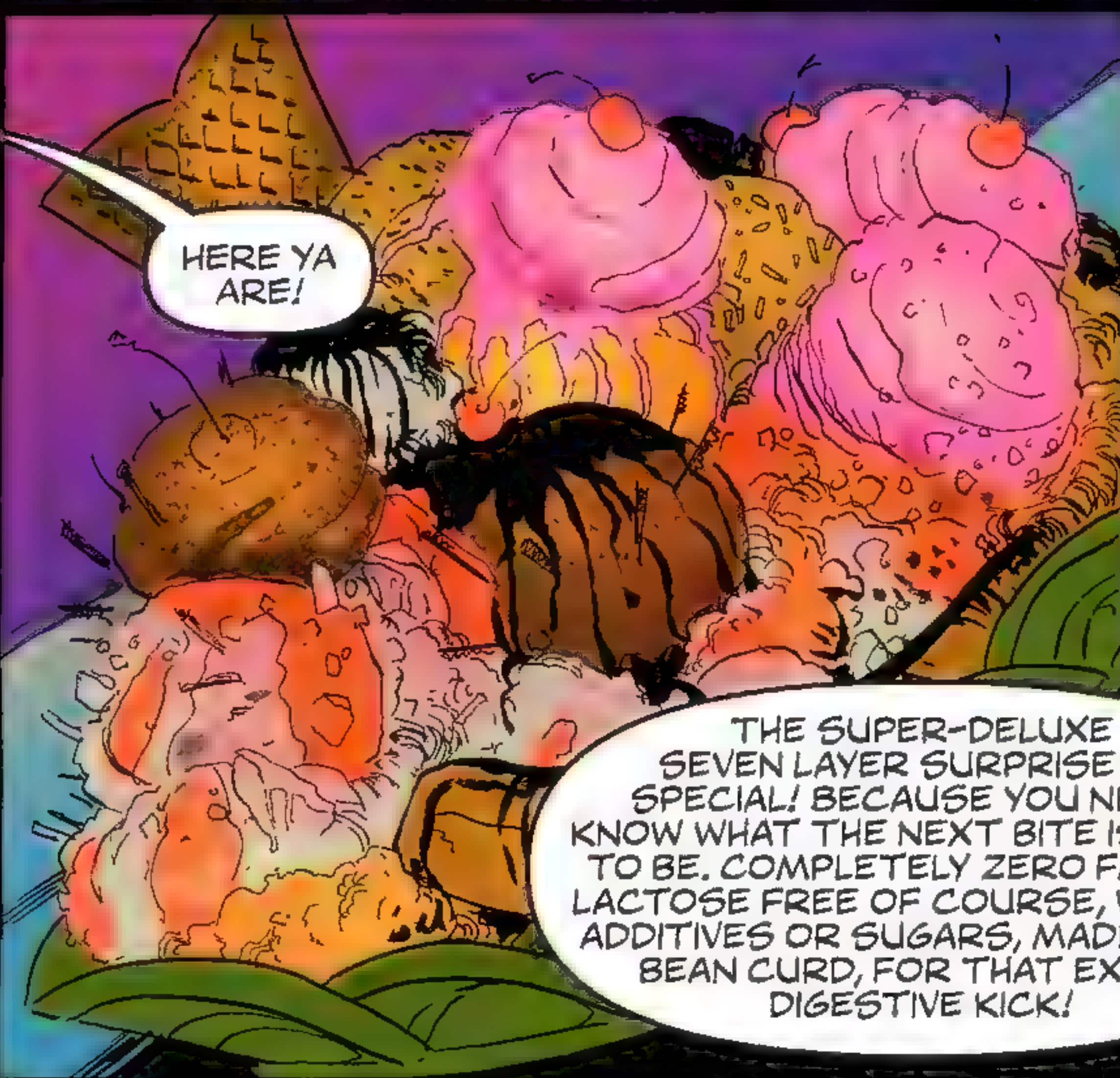
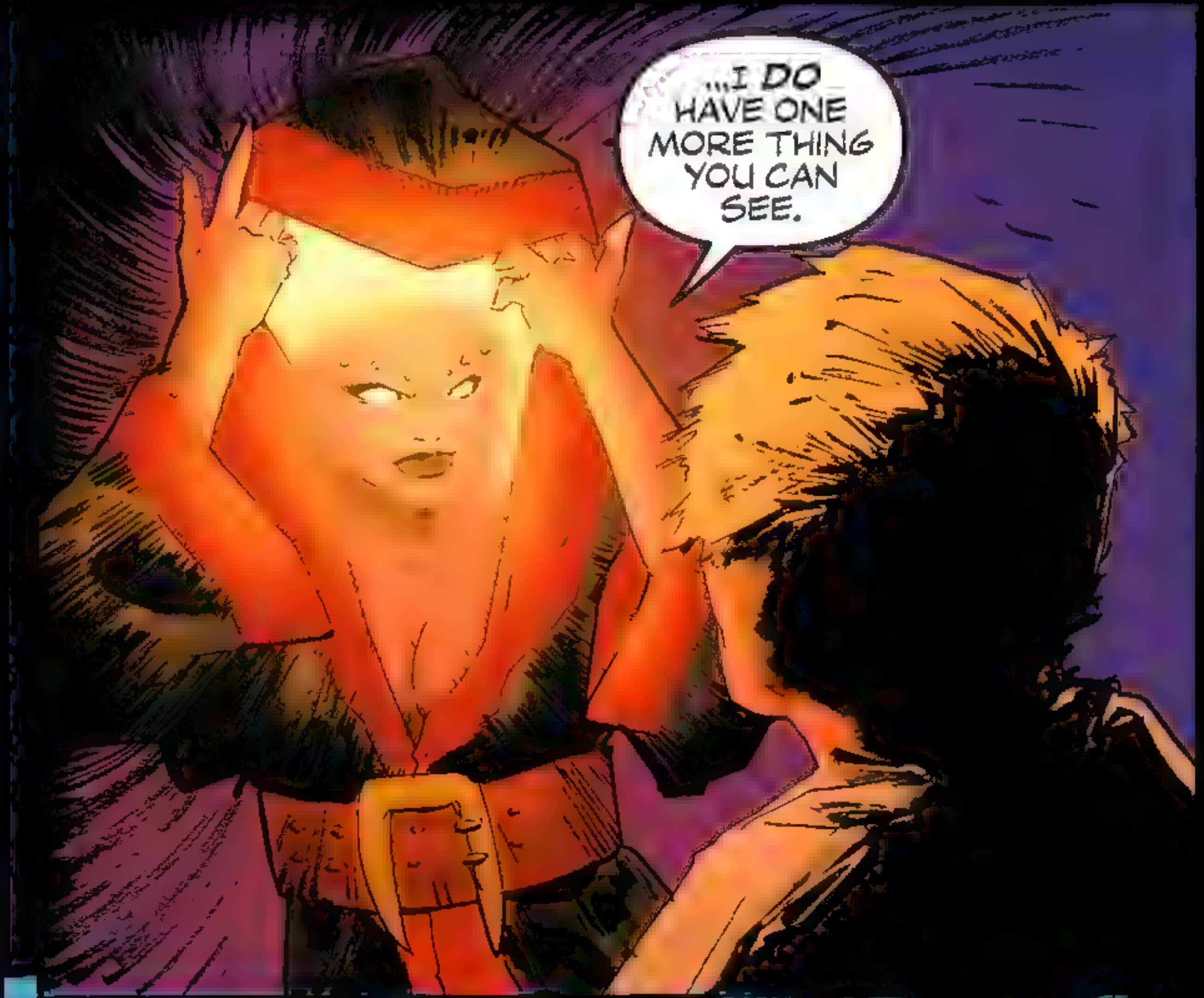
UMMM...

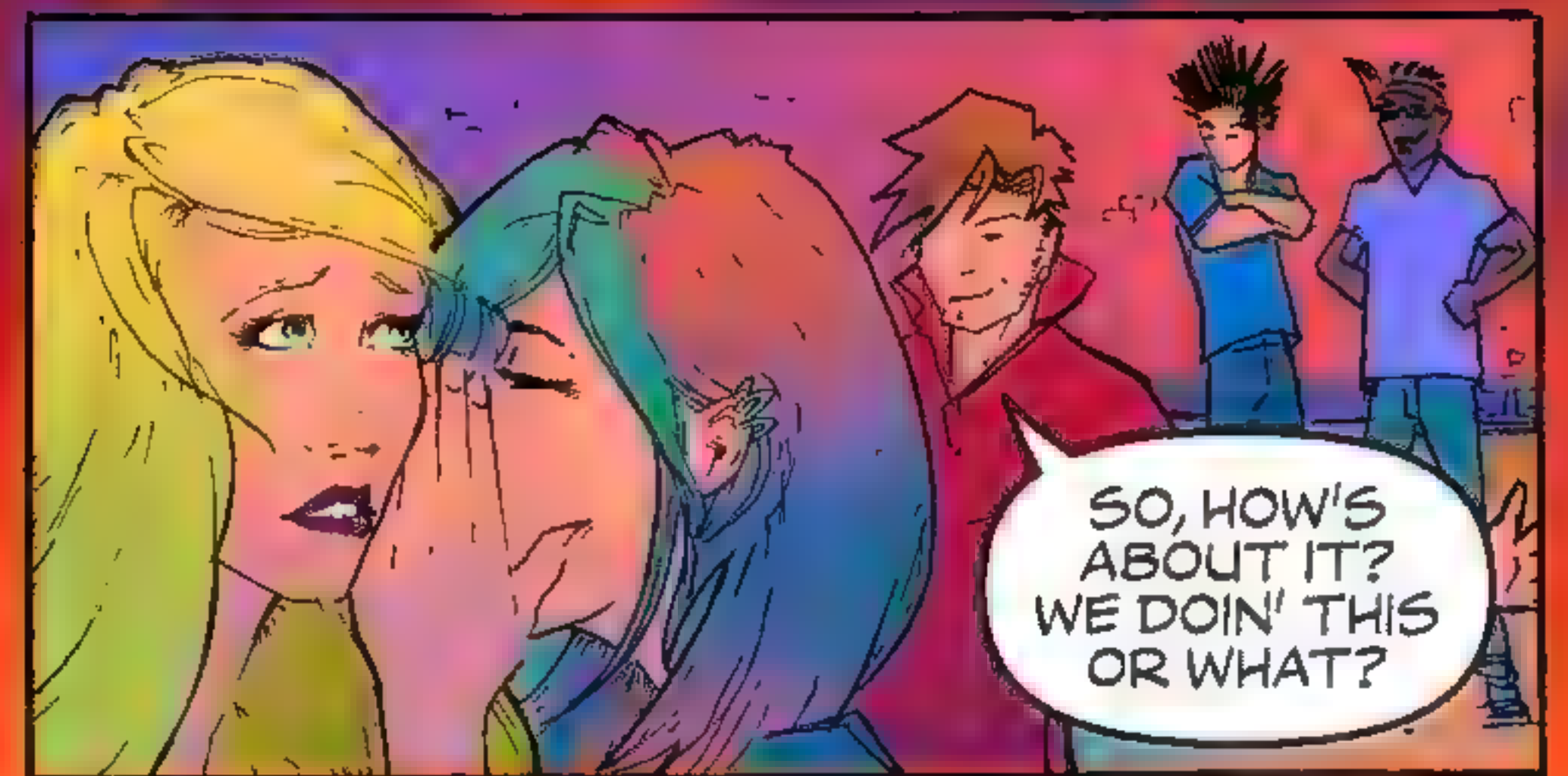


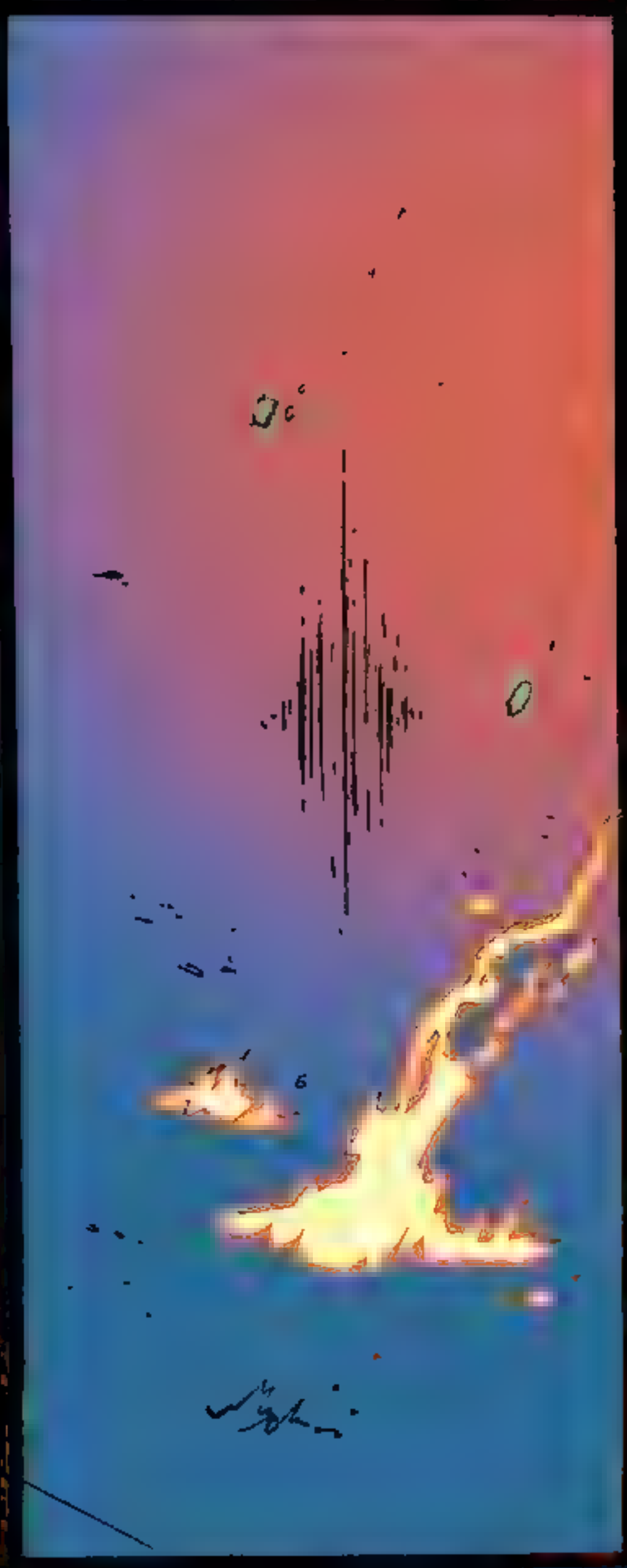
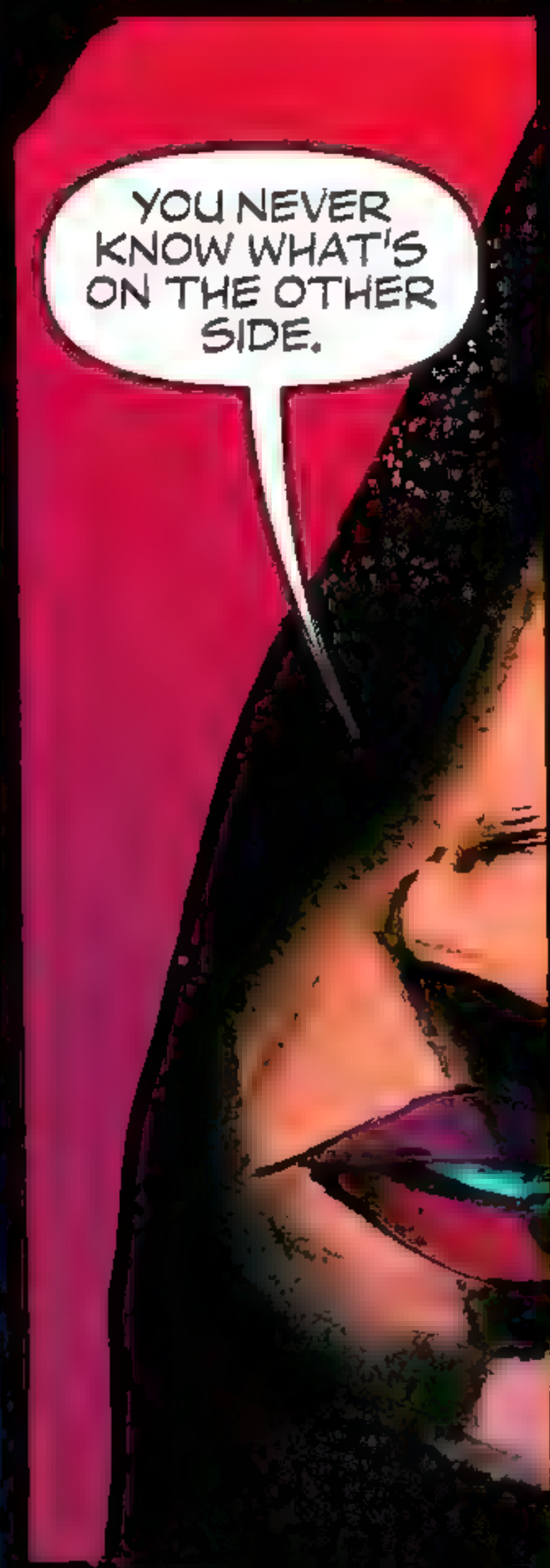
...BUT IT'S
MY RESPONSIBILITY.
I JUST... WOULDN'T WANT
TO SEE YOU GET HURT OR
SOMETHING. WE'LL JUST
TELL EMBER YOU--



ARE YOU
SAYING I CAN'T
TAKE CARE OF
MYSELF?







HEY! WHO
TURNED OUT THE
LIGHTS? I CAN'T SEE
A THING. THERE'S
NOTHIN' HERE.

HOLD ON A
MOMENT.

YOU WERE
SAYING?

DAMN.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE
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(pages 9-13, and 18-20)

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WHAT FAVOR?

Our story so far...

Theo Langstrom discovered that all of his previous accomplishments—namely saving the Earth and the world of Perspecta—were nothing compared to the challenges of senior year in high school. However, the teenager went about rebuilding his adolescence and even meeting new “acquaintances” such as stunning school trackmate, too, much to the chagrin of his close friend, Kiori.

Meanwhile, in Perspecta, both the Elysians and Nefarious found themselves at the mercy of a new darkness enveloping all in its path—the embodiment of fear itself! Led by Lord Slive, these creatures swept through the land destroying both Elysia and Nefario in kind.

However, Theo, Thom and Kiori had to deal with their own manifestation of Slive’s chaos, as Ange and Dev were soon infected themselves and nearly killed the kids. Luckily, the fugitive Ember Silva arrived just in time to rescue them and usher them back to Perspecta—where all parties collided.

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ISSUE 5

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by **MICAH GUNNELL**



I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN?

IS EVERYONE, OKAY?!



I WAS AT THE HOUSE WITH KIORI AND THOM, STUDYING, DOING SOME GAMING. WE WERE HAVING A BLAST.

NEXT THING I KNOW, MY MIND FEELS LIKE IT'S ON FIRE...

YEAH, I THINK SO. WHERE ARE WE?



...AND SEVERELY GO'TH'D OUT VERSIONS OF ANGE AND DEV APPEARED, READY TO TAKE OUR HEADS OFF!

I'M NOT SURE, BUT THIS RIGHT HERE IS SOME DEEP SH--



WE WERE PRETTY MUCH DONE FOR UNTIL EMBER SILVA SHOWED UP AND SAVED THE DAY.

WELL, SORT OF.

SHOULDN'T WE RUN? WHAT ARE ALL OF THESE THINGS??



SHE RELUCTANTLY TURNED ANGE AND DEV BACK TO NORMAL, BUT TOLD US THERE WAS AN EVEN GREATER THREAT ABOUT TO STRIKE.

SHE NEEDED US TO GO TO PERSPECTA AND BRING MY FRIENDS, TOO!

THERE'S SO MANY. HOW WOULD WE GET AWAY?



ODDLY, IT DIDN'T TAKE MUCH CONVINCING, EVEN WITH WHAT HAPPENED THERE LAST TIME...

...I THINK THEY ALL KINDA LIKE THIS PLACE.

I AM SURE WE WILL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT, EVERYONE.

PLEASE BE CALM, THERE IS NO NEED TO PANIC.



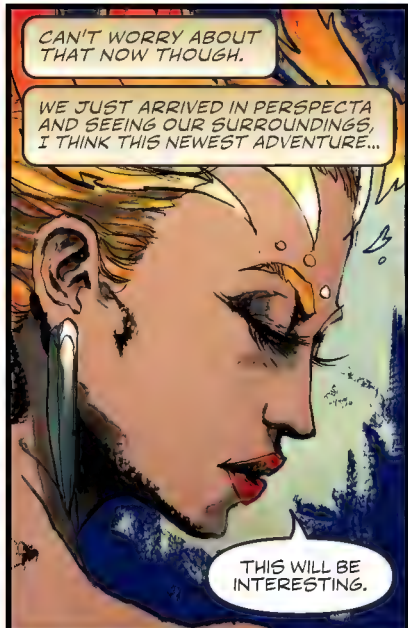
I DO TOO.

THOUGHT IT WAS TOUGH RETURNING TO NORMAL LIFE.

I GUESS OTHERWORLDLY EXPERIENCES WILL DO THAT TO YOU.

CALM MY ASS! WE MAY BE OUTNUMBERED, BUT I DOUBT THEY'VE SEEN EVERY UFC PAY-PER-VIEW LIKE ME.

LET'S DO THIS!



CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW THOUGH.

WE JUST ARRIVED IN PERSPECTA AND SEEING OUR SURROUNDINGS, I THINK THIS NEWEST ADVENTURE...

THIS WILL BE INTERESTING.



...IS GONNA BE THE STRUGGLE OF A LIFETIME!

I'D RATHER NOT HAVE TO FIGHT, BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE HAVE ANY OTHER OPTION.

COME ON, THEN. COME ON!





I'VE
ALREADY TOLD
YOU WHY WE'RE
HERE, PERHAPS
YOU'RE NOT AS
BRIGHT AS THEY
SAY.

GONNA
TURN HIS
LIGHTS
OUT!

YEAH,
REGULAR
BENJAMINA
FRANKLIN.

FOR ANY
OTHERS OF
YOU HARD OF
HEARING,
LISTEN UP.

THIS IS
PERSPECTA.
WHAT'S LEFT OF
IT ANYWAY. SOME
OF YOU HAVE BEEN
HERE, SOME OF
YOU HAVE NOT.

IT IS MUCH
DIFFERENT
THAN WHAT YOU
REMEMBER.

THOSE YOU
SEE HERE ARE A
FEW REMAINING
SURVIVORS OF A
DEADLY...PLAGUE,
THAT HAS SWEEP
ACROSS OUR
WORLD.

WHAT KIND OF
PLAGUE? THERE
ARE NO MENTIONS IN
THE ELYSIAN
SCRIPTURES OF
ANYTHING LIKE THIS
YOU SPEAK OF.



OH
ANGE HONEY,
THERE'S STILL SO
MUCH YOU NEED
TO LEARN.



IT'S...
TRUE. WE
SAW IT.





IT'S
THE LIVING
REALIZATION
OF TRUE
FEAR.

DURING THE
EARLIEST STAGES OF
PERSPECTA'S CREATION,
THE CREATURES RAN
RAMPANT ACROSS OUR
WORLD. FOR CENTURIES,
OUR ELDERS FOUGHT BACK,
BUT HAD LITTLE SUCCESS
IN PREVENTING THEIR
ADVANCEMENT.

A DOOMED
CIVILIZATION
BEFORE IT EVEN
HAD A CHANCE
TO BEGIN.



BUT AS
LEGEND GOES,
AT THEIR
DARKEST HOUR,
HELP ARRIVED IN
THE MOST
UNLIKELY OF
ALLIES.

NEARLY
ALL THE FEAR
CREATURES WERE
DEFEATED, DRIVEN
BACK INTO THE
SHADOWS FROM
WHERE THEY
CAME.



THAT WAS
CENTURIES
AGO. OUR KIND
HAS THRIVED AND
PROSPERED
SINCE, BUT
APPARENTLY...



...SOMEONE
HAS LET
THEM OUT.



PERSPECTA
IS IN GRAVE DANGER.
THE CREATURES HAVE
ALREADY SPREAD
ACROSS BOTH LANDS
SENDING THOSE THAT
HAVE SURVIVED
INTO HIDING.

ALL THE
BEINGS HERE
NARROWLY ESCAPED
WITH THEIR LIVES, AND
THIS PLACE WILL NOT
PROVIDE SAFETY FOR
MUCH LONGER.

THE VERY
FUTURE OF
OUR WORLD,
AND YOURS, IS
AT STAKE.

THAT IS
WHY I WENT
TO FIND YOU...
THEO.

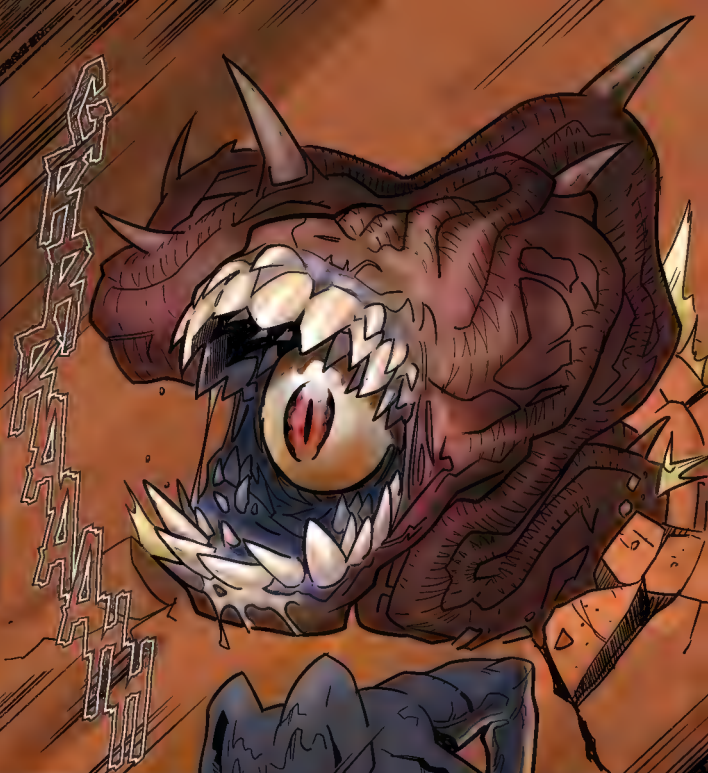
YOU
ALONE CAN
SAVE US
ALL.

ME?!



WHAT?
WHY ME?
HOW?

I CAN'T...
I MEAN, ME?
I'M SURE IF WE
JUST WAIT IT
OUT, MAYBE
THESE THINGS
WILL JUST GO
AWAY--



WOULD
YOU LIKE TO
REPHRASE
THAT?

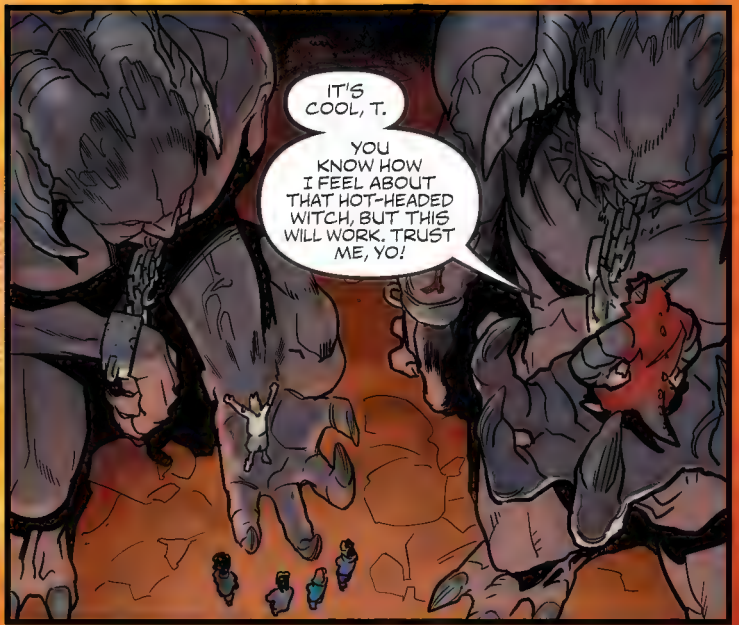


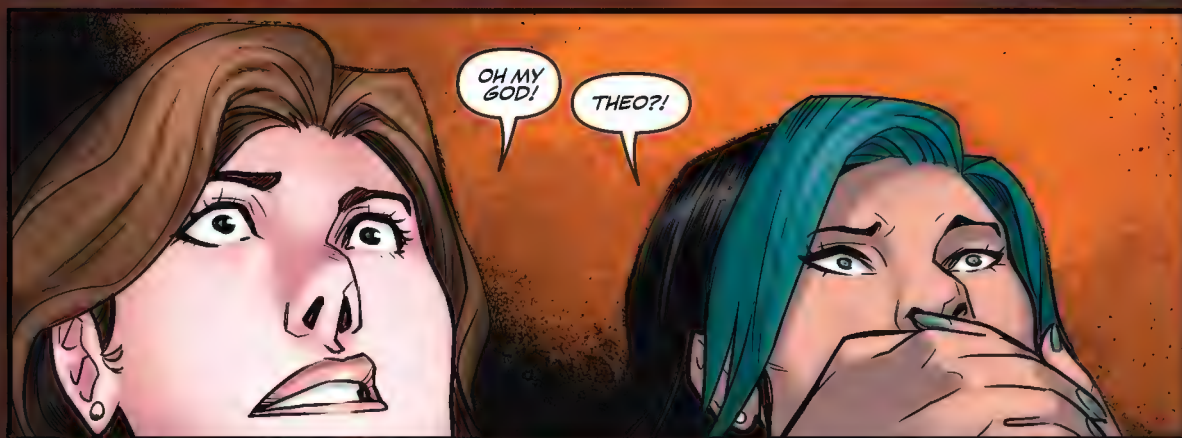
FINE...



...WHAT
DO I
NEED TO
DO?

A SHORT WHILE LATER.

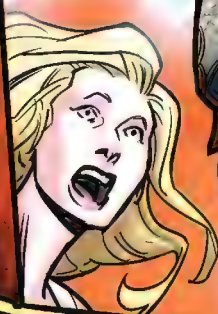






**YIPPEE KI YAY
MOTHER--**

DEVONSHIRE,
GO!



YES! NO
MORE HOLE.
SQUISHED FEAR
CREATURES. I
RULE!

NOW
THAT THAT'S
OVER WITH, I
WOULD SAY...

...IT'S
TIME FOR
US TO GO.





IT WORKED.
WE MADE
IT!



NO, WE'RE
OKAY. I DON'T
SEE ANYTHING
BEHIND--

UHHHHH...
**HOLY
CRAP!**



GRRRAAHHH

GRRRAAHHH



WE'RE
UNDER ATTACK!
KIRIALLA, LOOK
OUT!



TAKE THAT,
CREEP!



ZRRRZ
ZRRRZ
ZRRRZ

YOU KNOW
IT! HANGING
ON TIGHT.

GET
AWAY YOU
NASTY FLYING
SACK OF--!



WOOOOO
HOOO!

ZRRRZ
ZRRRZ

YEAH, I
THINK THEY'RE
ALL GONE.
WE'RE HOME
FRE--



UGH!



KIRIALLAAAAAA!

A LITTLE
HELP UP
HERE?

OF
COURSE.

BEST TO
MAKE SURE
EVERYONE
CAN SEE
WHAT LIES
AHEAD.

WE WOULD
NOT WANT ANY
ACCIDENTS TO
OCCUR.



ONLY THING
I SEE AHEAD IS A
NON-ACCIDENTAL
ASS-BEATING
TO WHOEVER
CAUSED THIS.

AND
MADE ME
CRAWL THROUGH
THESE DAMN
TUNNELS AGAIN.
I HATE THIS
PLACE.

TUNNEL
HATE!
TUNNEL
HATE!

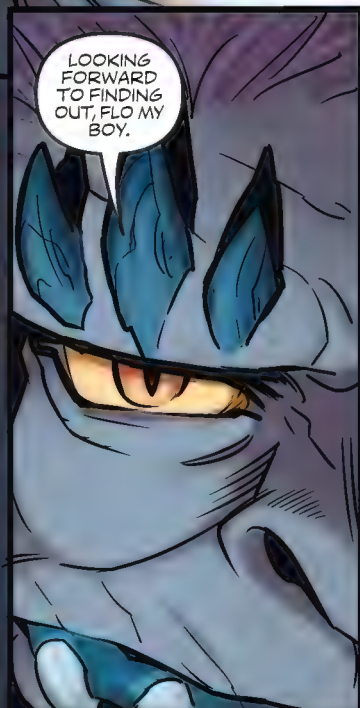


IT WAS OUR
ONLY OPTION,
MAN. UNLESS YOU
WANTED TO TRY
YOUR LUCK WITH
THOSE FEAR
CREATURES
AGAIN?

YOU'RE
TOUGH DEV,
BUT I DON'T
THINK EVEN YOU
CAN TAKE
THEM ALL.



LOOKING
FORWARD
TO FINDING
OUT, FLO MY
BOY.





WHERE
ARE WE
HEADED?

TO
THE ELYSIAN
CAPITAL. THERE
IS A STRONGHOLD
THERE THAT IS HEAVILY
FORTIFIED BY THE
ELYSIAN HONOR
GUARDS.

WORRY
NOT, CARRIE.
WE SHOULD
BE SAFE
THERE.



HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
WHEN WE WERE HERE
BEFORE, EVERYTHING
SEEMED FINE WHEN
WE LEFT.



CARRIE? YOU'VE
BEEN HERE...
BEFORE?



I STILL
DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHERE
HERE IS?



MY APOLOGIES,
LOUISA. I PROMISE
YOU EVERYTHING WILL
BE EXPLAINED ONCE
WE REACH THE
SHELTER.

TRUST ME,
LOU. THE LESS
YOU KNOW, THE
BETTER.



S'ALL
GOOD, GIRL.
WE GOT YOUR
BACK.

T'S GONNA COME
THROUGH WITH
FLYING COLORS.
YOU'LL SEE.

THANKS,
THOM.



I REALLY
HOPE SO.





OUR WORLD IS UNDER SIEGE BY AN ANCIENT EVIL, ONE WE HAVE NOT ENCOUNTERED IN THIS WAY SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING OF OUR EXISTENCE.

ANOTHER FORM OF IT HAS CONTINUALLY DWELLED AMONG OUR KIND, BUT NOTHING LIKE THIS. NOTHING SO... MALEVOLENT.

IT MUST BE STOPPED AT ALL COSTS.



THAT IS WHERE YOU COME IN.

YEAH, I'VE HEARD THAT A LOT LATELY.

YOU HAVE A UNIQUE BOND TO PERSPECTA, THEO. IT IS UNLIKE VERY FEW OTHER HUMAN BEINGS THROUGHOUT TIME.

YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO SAVE US. YOU CAN SAVE US ALL.



I UH, THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT I DID LAST TIME I WAS HERE?



YOUR DEFEAT OF NOBLE WAS TRULY MONUMENTAL, BUT THIS IS BEYOND JUST A SINGLE BEING.

IT IS AN UNYIELDING FORCE OF DESTRUCTION THAT LEAVES NOTHING IN ITS WAKE.

HOWEVER, OUR CITIES MAY HAVE FALLEN, BUT THEY ARE NOT LOST.



YOU CAN BRING THEM ALL BACK.

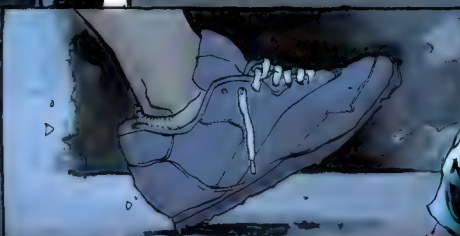
YOU CAN BRING IT BACK.



THE SAVIOR OF
THE WORLD.

AGAIN.

MAGNUSS SURE HAS
HIGH HOPES FOR ME.



IF DEV WERE HERE...HE'D BE
COMPLAINING THE ENTIRE
TIME THAT WE HAVE TO SAVE
THE DAY ALL OVER. THOUGH,
HE IS PRETTY GOOD AT IT.

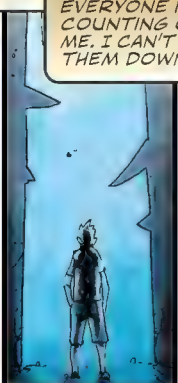


ANGE...WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE, EVEN
WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT EXACTLY IT
IS I HAVE TO DO. SHE'S ALWAYS A
POSITIVE INFLUENCE, WHICH IS
REFRESHING NOWADAYS.

BOTH OF THEM HAVE BEEN THERE FOR
ME THROUGH THE BEST OF TIMES AND
THE WORST OF TIMES. I'M PRETTY SURE
THIS WOULD QUALIFY AS THE LATTER.



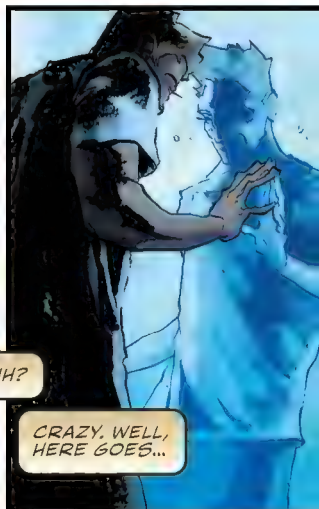
I DON'T KNOW WHAT
LIES IN FRONT OF ME
OR WHERE I'M GOING,
ALL I KNOW IS I NEED
TO PUSH ON.



EVERYONE IS
COUNTING ON
ME. I CAN'T LET
THEM DOWN.



HUH?



CRAZY. WELL,
HERE GOES...

...NOTHING?



NOT NOTHING.
SOMETHING.

WHO...
WHO SAID
THAT?



UUGHHH!!



WE ALL
DID.

LET'S GO
HELP OUR
FRIENDS.





I DON'T
SEE ANY OF
THOSE THINGS,
GUYS.

I THINK
THE COAST
IS CLEAR.

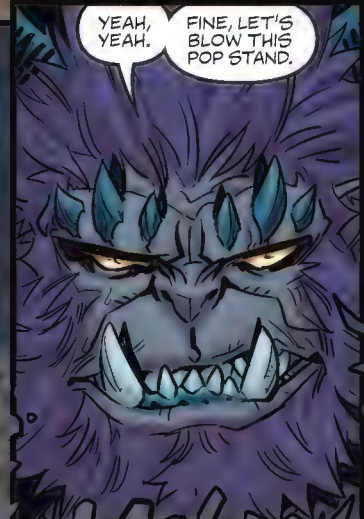


GOOD. EVEN
IF THERE WERE,
I GOTTA GET
OUTTA HERE.

THIS PLACE IS
CRAMPING MY
STYLE TO NO
END.



I AM SURE EVERYONE
HERE WOULD LIKE TO BE
FREE OF THESE TUNNELS
TOO, DEV. BUT EVERYONE'S
SAFETY COMES WELL
BEFORE YOUR OWN
SELFISH NEEDS.



YEAH,
YEAH.

FINE, LET'S
BLOW THIS
POP STAND.



DRAGO!



LADIES...



FINALLY.



SHE GOT HERE
AWFULLY QUICK.
TOO GOOD TO
TAKE THE
TUNNELS.

SOMETHING
SMELLS FISHY
ABOUT HER,
FLO. I CAN
TASTE IT.

AH,
THAT'S JUST
YESTERDAY'S
LUNCH IN YOUR
POCKET.

FISH LUNCH!
FISH LUNCH!
TALAPIA!



I SEE YOU ALL
SURVIVED THE
JOURNEY. HOW...
DELIGHTFUL.

AND PUTRID.
THAT SMELL,
VERY UN-LADY
LIKE, ANGE.



ENOUGH WITH
THE VEILED
TORMENTS,
EMBER.

IT IS TIME FOR SOME
ANSWERS. WHERE
IS EVERYONE? LORD
MAGNUSS? MARINA?
YOU SAID YOU HAD
INFORMATION TO
HELP AVERT THIS
CRISIS.

TELL US.
NOW!



MY MY.
DEMANDING
ARE WE?

OF COURSE,
ANGE. COME
ALONG THEN AND
ALL WILL BE
EXPLAINED.

GOT YER
ANSWERS
RIGHT
HERE.



I LOVE
VEAL.

YOUR
OUTFIT IS
A CRISIS.
GEEZ.



TO BE CONCLUDED IN THE
PAGES OF **SHRUGGED #6!**



frank MASTROMAURO
andré RISSO
beth SOTELO • john STARR
taylor ESPOSITO

aspen
COMICS

#6

COVER A

SHRUGGED 2TM





frank MASTROMAURO
andré RISSO
beth SOTELO • john STARR
taylor ESPOSITO

#6

COVER B

SHRUGGEDTM 2



SHRUGGED
CREATED BY:
MICHAEL TURNER
AND **FRANK**
MASTROMAURO

OUR STORY SO FAR...

Ember revealed the true origin of the fear creatures sweeping across Perspecta, and clued Theo on to his role in her plan to defeat them. Theo was able to use the aerial help of their ally, Kirialla, in order to escape the creature's onslaught but was shot out of the sky and rescued by the Elysian commander, Magnuss. Meanwhile, Ange and Dev managed to lead the kids to relative safety following a siege by the fear creatures, but soon discovered they were led into a trap by Ember, shadowed by the monstrous Slive...

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SHRUGGED
VOLUME II
ISSUE 6

MULTITUDE OF STOUT HEARTED NESS



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YOU'S
SHOULD SEE
YOUR FACES!
PRICELESS!

THE WEIRD
ONE'S JAW
IS ONNA
GROUND!

TINK THE
LITTLE GUY
FEED
HISSELF.



IT IS QUITE
THE PATHETIC
SIGHT.

I WAS
EXPECTING
A BIT MORE
GRATITUDE,
ESPECIALLY
FROM YOU,
ANGE.



GRATITUDE?
FOR WHAT?!

THIS IS
MADNESS,
EMBER!

FOR
WHAT?



FOR FINALLY
RETURNING
PERSPECTA TO
ITS RIGHTFUL
STATE OF
BEING.

AND FOR SETTING
ALL OF YOU FREE
FROM THE MORAL
CONSTRAINTS
THAT BIND
TOGETHER YOUR
WORTHLESS
EXISTENCE.

WHICH SO
HAPPENS WILL
BE OVER VERY
SHORTLY.



YOU
DEFINITELY HAVE
A FEW SCREWS
LOOSE.

YOU'RE
ONE CRAZY,
BROAD!

CRAZY!
CRAZY!
CRAZY!



SO YOU THINK I'M CRAZY, DEV?

LET ME TELL YOU A BEDTIME STORY BEFORE WE LAY YOU DOWN TO REST.

YOU'LL LIKE IT. YOU'RE IN IT.

YOU ALL ARE.

"I HAD WHAT SOME MIGHT CALL AMBITIONS ONCE. GOALS TO LEAD AND COMMAND THOSE WHO COULD NOT LEAD THEMSELVES."

"UNFORTUNATELY, THE 'CHOSEN ONE' DECIDED TO SHOW UP."

"YOUR YOUNG HOST THEO AND HIS FRIENDS PROCEEDED TO RUIN MY PLANS."

"I BLAME MYSELF ACTUALLY. ALIGNING WITH LESS THAN ADEQUATE ALLIES WAS A RECIPE FOR FAILURE FROM THE START."

"EVEN ONE OF MY STRONGEST WAS DISPATCHED IN LESS THAN GLORIOUS FASHION."

"SOMETHING HE HAS NOT LONG FORGOTTEN."

"TEMPORARILY DEFEATED, I FLED TO THE ONLY PLACE I KNEW NO ONE WOULD EVER FIND ME."

"EARTH."

"I CREATED A HOME, A FAMILY. EVERYTHING A WOMAN WOULD NEED TO LIVE A NORMAL JOYFUL LIFE."

"AND FOR ONCE, I WAS CONTENT. I WAS... HAPPY."

"BUT MY ENJOYMENT WASN'T MEANT TO LAST."

"MY REAL FAMILY WANTED ME BACK. THEY HAD BEEN SCOURING THE GLOBE IN SEARCH FOR SLIVE. HIS BANISHMENT WAS COMING TO AN END."

"I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED MINE TO CONTINUE, BUT SLIVE'S NEW COMPANIONS HAD OTHER PLANS."

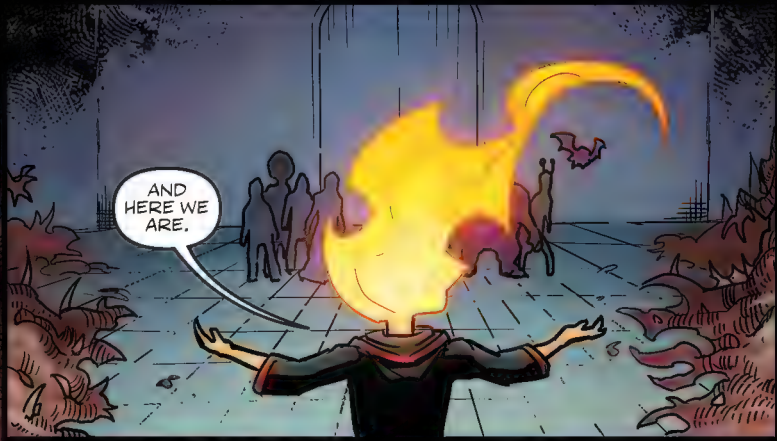
"EVEN IN EXILE, I WASN'T DESTINED TO LIVE A PEACEFUL LIFE."

"MY EARTH FAMILY WASN'T DESTINED TO LIVE."

"I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO SAY GOODBYE."

"IT WAS THEN THAT I REALIZED IF I COULDN'T LIVE IN PEACE AND TRANQUILITY..."

"NO ONE COULD!"



AND
HERE WE
ARE.



I WILL ADMIT, THIS
ISN'T WHAT I HAD IN
MIND IN ORDER TO
GAIN MY RIGHTFUL
POWER.

BUT,
YOU JUST
NEED TO GO
WITH THE FLOW
SOMETIMES.
KNOW WHAT I
MEAN?

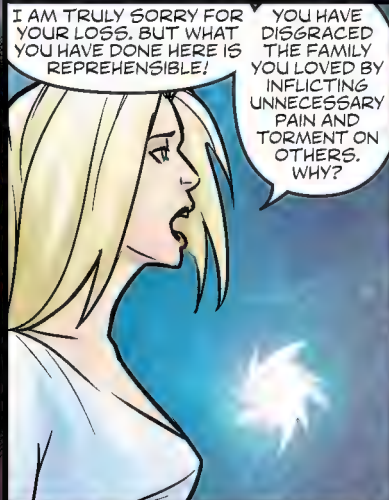


WHEN THE
HEART IS FILLED
WITH ONLY RAGE AND
REVENGE, IT CAN BRING
ABOUT THE MOST VILE
OF MANIFESTATIONS.

THINGS
NO ONE HAS
EVER SEEN
BEFORE.
OR...



...WILL
EVER SEE
AGAIN.



I AM TRULY SORRY FOR
YOUR LOSS. BUT WHAT
YOU HAVE DONE HERE IS
REPREHENSIBLE!

YOU HAVE
DISGRACED
THE FAMILY
YOU LOVED BY
INFLECTING
UNNECESSARY
PAIN AND
TORMENT ON
OTHERS.
WHY?

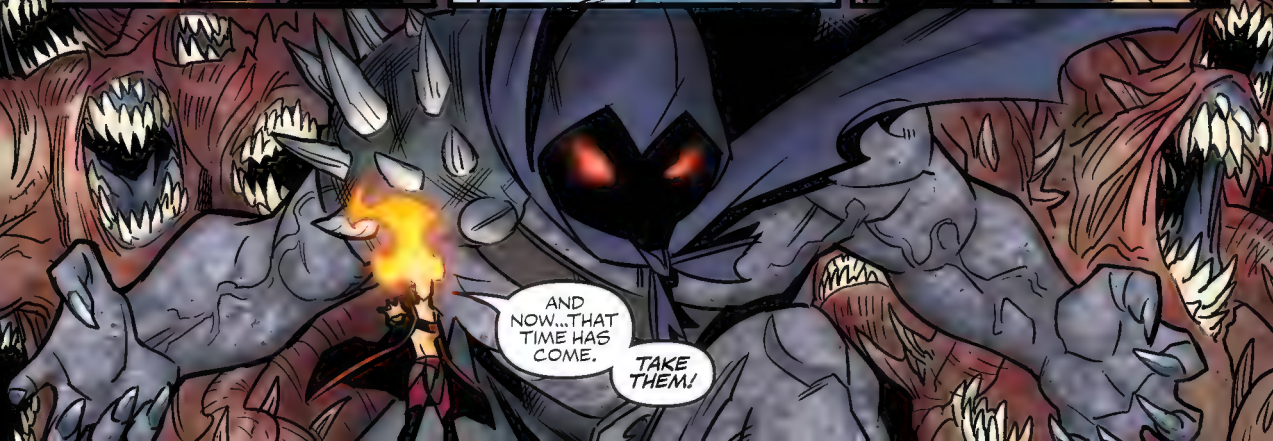


YOU STILL
DON'T GET
IT DO YOU,
ANGE?

YOU THINK YOUR
PRECIOUS THEO IS
SO SPECIAL. OPEN
YOUR EYES. THE
OTHER ONE HAS
BEEN RIGHT UNDER
YOUR NOSE AND YOU
DIDN'T EVEN
KNOW IT.

THE REST?
YEAH, SURE.
THEY KINDA
PISSED ME
OFF.

LET'S
JUST CHALK
IT UP TO A
WRONG PLACE
WRONG TIME
TYPE OF
THING.



AND
NOW...THAT
TIME HAS
COME.

TAKE
THEM!



EVERYONE
BEHIND ME!



C'MON, YA
WORTHLESS
CREEPS! I
AIN'T DEAD
YET!



UNGH!!!

DEVONSHIRE!



YOU REALLY
THINK YOU
CAN FIGHT
THIS? WHAT
A JOKE.

JUST LIKE
HIS HOST,
HEAD-
STRONG BUT
FEEBLE-
MINDED.

EASILY
MANIPULATED
AND EASILY
DEFEATED.



YOUR WORTHLESS
LIVES WILL SOON BE
OVER, BUT DON'T
WORRY. ONCE WE
FIND THEO, HE'LL
BE JOINING YOU
SHORTLY.



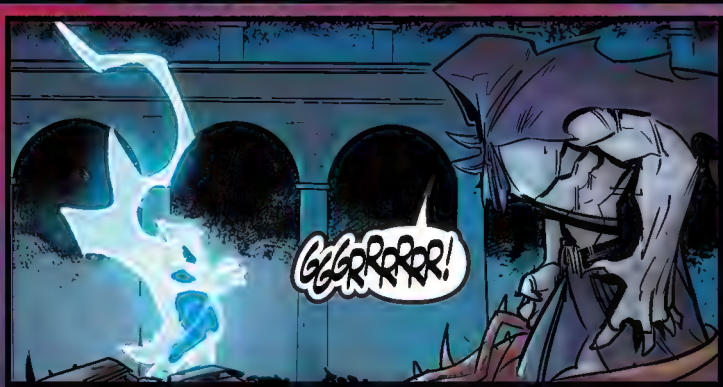
POOR
THING.

HE'S PROBABLY
SO SCARED. HIDING
SOMEWHERE ALL
ALONE, UNABLE TO
HELP HIS FRIENDS
FROM BE--

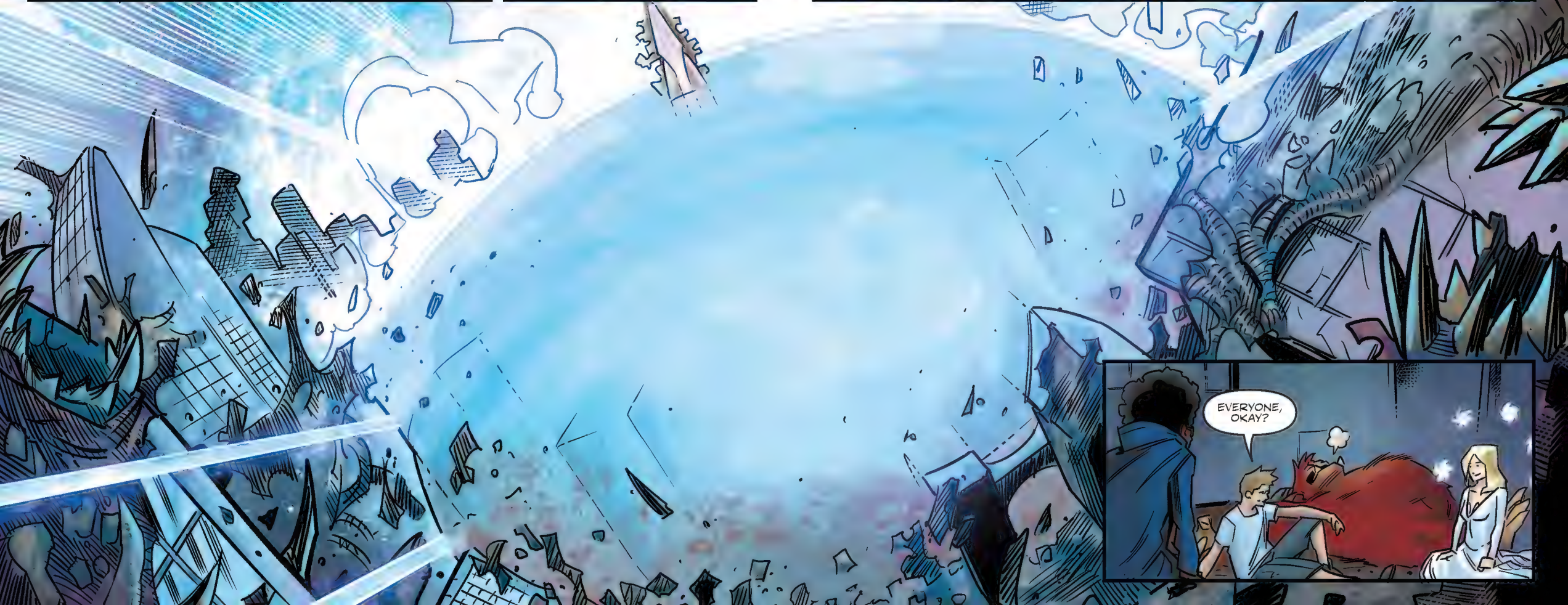
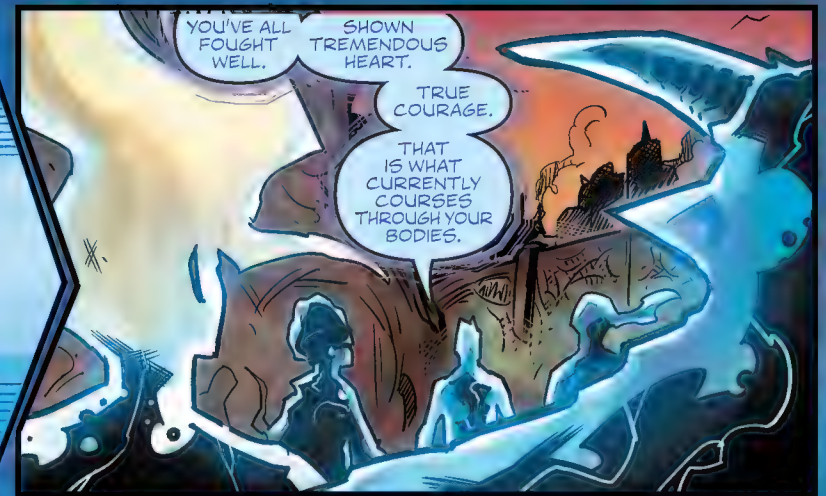
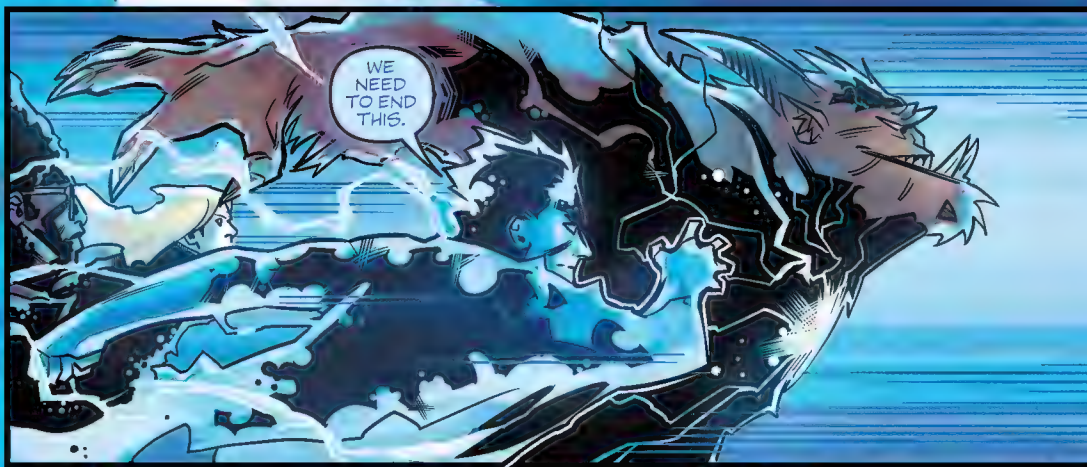














HELLO
DER, CUTIE
PIE. ONE UH US
IS IN DEEP
TROUBLE.

GIMME DA
SCISSORS.
NO, A
CHAINSAW!

LIKE A
FISH IN A
NET. JUS'
KEEP
SWIMMING!



ENOUGH
OF THIS!



OUT
OF MY
WAY!



READY
TO GO,
BOYS?



EMBER!
DO NOT
MOVE!

YOU
NEED TO
ANSWER
FOR YOUR
IMMORALITIES!



DON'T
MAKE ME
LAUGH,
ANGE.

YOUR LITTLE
POWER-UP HAS
WORN OFF. YOU
NO LONGER HAVE
THE STRENGTH
NOR THE ABILITY
TO STOP ME.

TOOTLES
FOR NOW.

HOLD!



YOUR CRIMES WILL NOT GO UNPUNISHED AGAIN.

YOUR JUDGMENT IS AT HAND.



THERE WAS A TIME YOU WERE ONE OF US, EMBER SILVA.

THOUGH YOU CHOSE TO PROCURE THE ATTRIBUTES OF A NEFARIAN, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE AN ELYSIAN.



WHA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

LET ME GO!



FOR YOUR VILLAINY AND WICKEDNESS...

WE ABOLISH YOUR BODILY POSSESSION!



MY QUEEN.

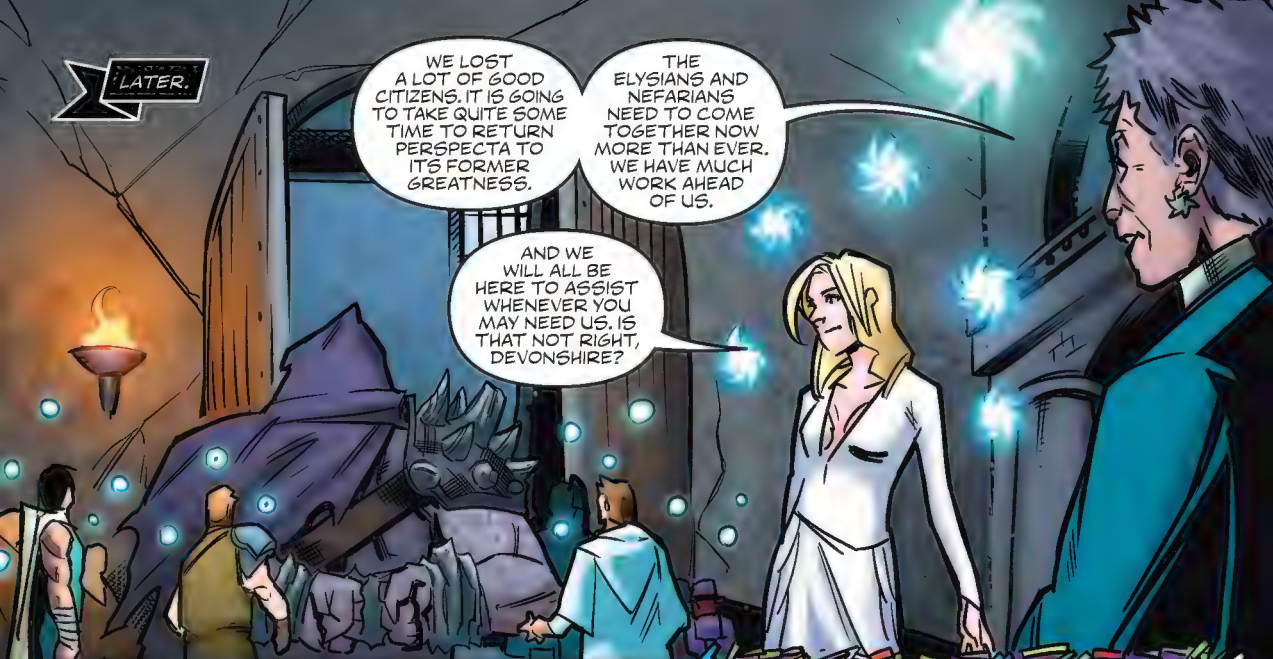
WHAT HAVE DEY DONE?

LATER.

WE LOST A LOT OF GOOD CITIZENS. IT IS GOING TO TAKE QUITE SOME TIME TO RETURN PERSPECTA TO ITS FORMER GREATNESS.

THE ELYSIANS AND NEFARIANS NEED TO COME TOGETHER NOW MORE THAN EVER. WE HAVE MUCH WORK AHEAD OF US.

AND WE WILL ALL BE HERE TO ASSIST WHENEVER YOU MAY NEED US. IS THAT NOT RIGHT, DEVONSHIRE?



SEVERAL DAYS LATER.

NOT MUCH TIME LEFT, BRO. SENIOR DANCE AND THEN GRADUATION. YOU DECIDE ON WHICH HONEY YOU TAKING YET?

YEAH, NOT EVEN CLOSE.

EVER SINCE WE GOT BACK FROM OUR LATEST PERSPECTA TRIP, THINGS WITH THEM HAVE BEEN KINDA WEIRD, IN A NORMAL SORTA WAY.

IS THAT... ODD?

HONK
HONK

NAH, THAT'S JUST HIGH SCHOOL, MY MAN.

HEYA LADIES, NEED A RIDE?

HA HA!

GGGGRRR!

REALLY, WALKER? THOUGHT WE WERE PAST THIS?

LAST ONE FOR OL'TIME SAKES, YA KNOW.

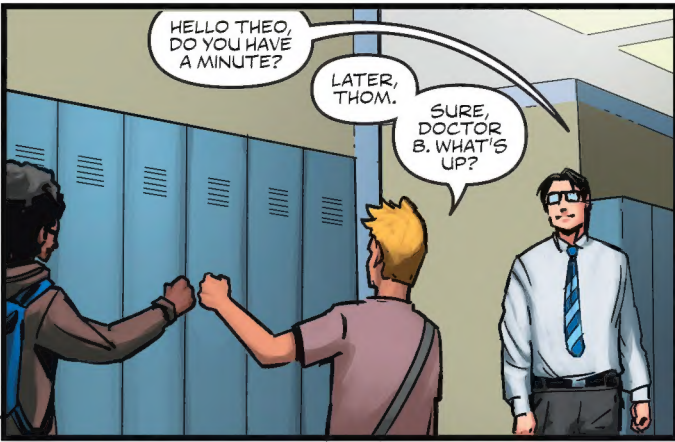
ANYWAY, WE'RE OUT. GOTTA FEW SURPRISES TO SET FOR MS. SHERMAN'S THIRD PERIOD CLASS. YA KNOW, OL'TIME SAKE.

LATER, SHRINK BOY. ER...THEO.

SEE DEV, CRISIS AVERTED. LET US GET ALONG TO SCHOOL NOW.

THAT'S FOR SURE ONE THING I WON'T BE MISSING.

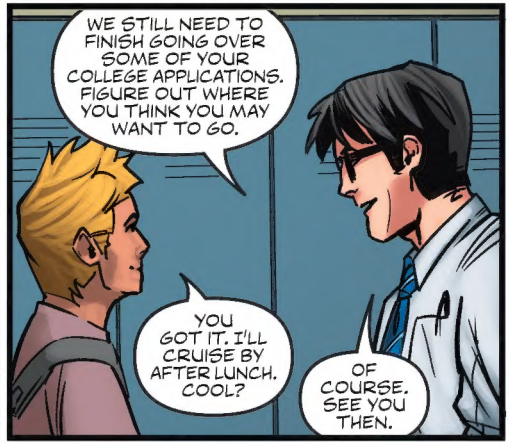
AND HOW.



HELLO THEO,
DO YOU HAVE
A MINUTE?

LATER,
THOM.

SURE,
DOCTOR
B. WHAT'S
UP?



WE STILL NEED TO
FINISH GOING OVER
SOME OF YOUR
COLLEGE APPLICATIONS.
FIGURE OUT WHERE
YOU THINK YOU MAY
WANT TO GO.

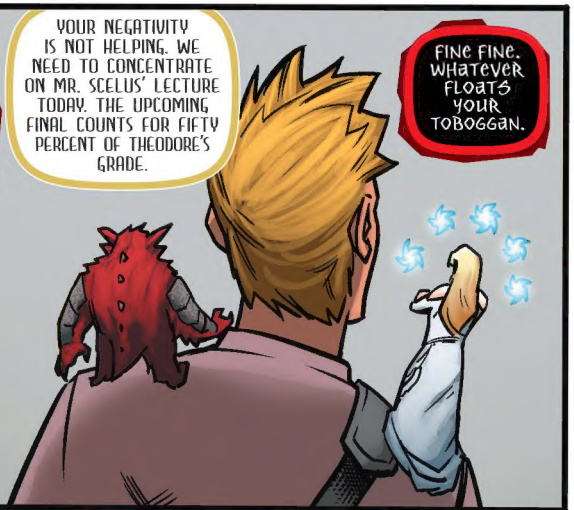
YOU
GOT IT. I'LL
CRUISE BY
AFTER LUNCH.
COOL?

OF
COURSE.
SEE YOU
THEN.



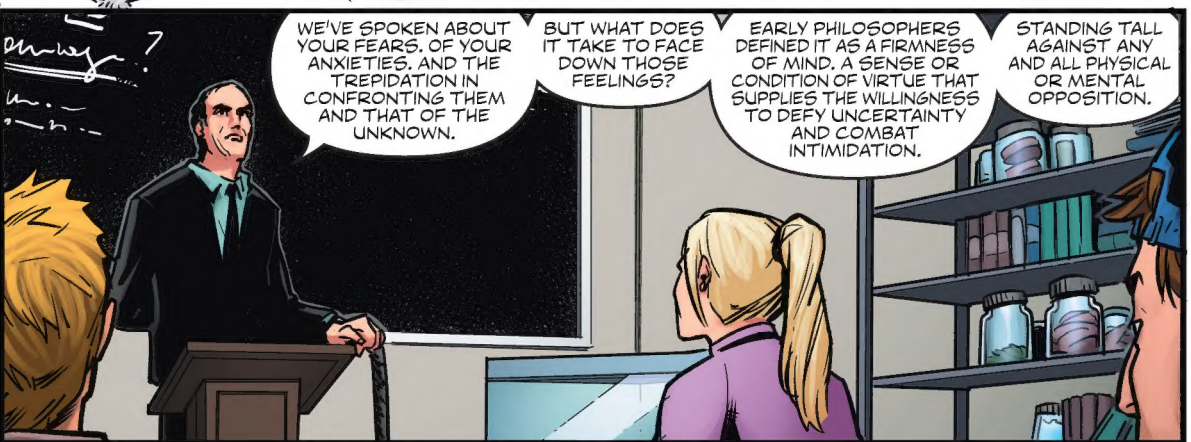
HOORAY! IT IS SO
EXCITING, DISCUSSING
YOUNG THEODORE'S
FUTURE.

exciting
my butt! we're
not even outta this
place and we already
need to decide on our
next four year
prison sentence?!
this blows!



YOUR NEGATIVITY
IS NOT HELPING. WE
NEED TO CONCENTRATE
ON MR. SCULUS' LECTURE
TODAY. THE UPCOMING
FINAL COUNTS FOR FIFTY
PERCENT OF THEODORE'S
GRADE.

FINE FINE.
WHATEVER
FLOATS
YOUR
TOBOGGAN.



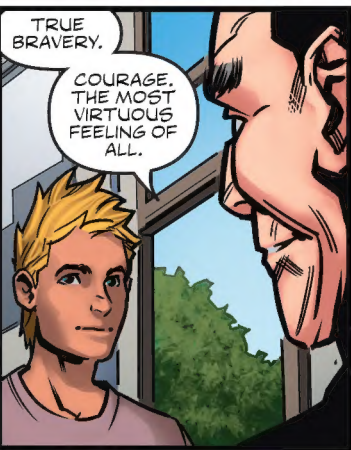
why?

WE'VE SPOKEN ABOUT
YOUR FEARS, OF YOUR
ANXIETIES, AND THE
TREPIDATION IN
CONFRONTING THEM
AND THAT OF THE
UNKNOWN.

BUT WHAT DOES
IT TAKE TO FACE
DOWN THOSE
FEELINGS?

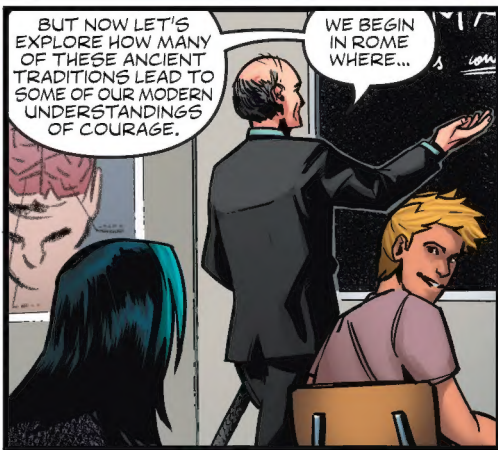
EARLY PHILOSOPHERS
DEFINED IT AS A FIRMNESS
OF MIND, A SENSE OR
CONDITION OF VIRTUE THAT
SUPPLIES THE WILLINGNESS
TO DEFEY UNCERTAINTY
AND COMBAT
INTIMIDATION.

STANDING TALL
AGAINST ANY
AND ALL PHYSICAL
OR MENTAL
OPPOSITION.



TRUE
BRAVERY.

COURAGE.
THE MOST
VIRTUOUS
FEELING OF
ALL.



BUT NOW LET'S
EXPLORE HOW MANY
OF THESE ANCIENT
TRADITIONS LEAD TO
SOME OF OUR MODERN
UNDERSTANDINGS
OF COURAGE.

WE BEGIN
IN ROME
WHERE...

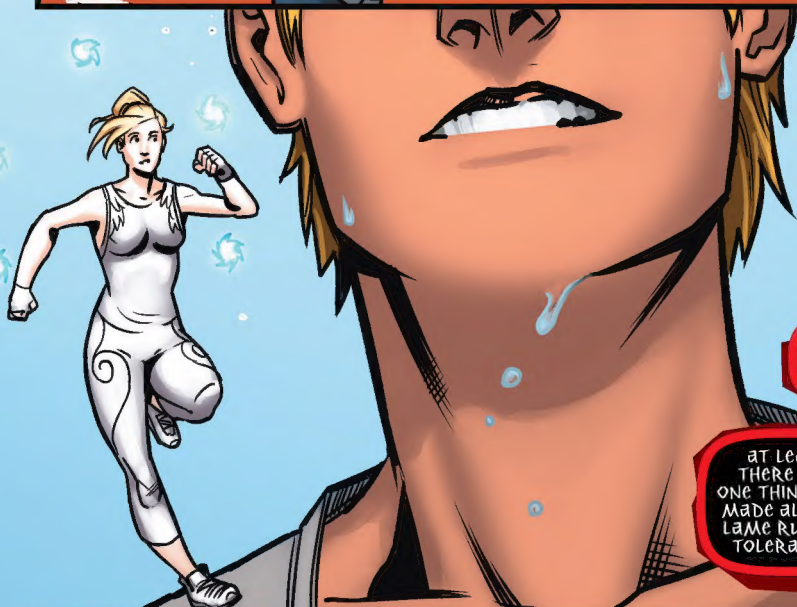




CENTRAL HIGH.

WAAAAAAAAH!!

OUR TRACK SEASON IS OVER! HOW COME THE STINKIN' COACH STILL MAKES US RUN SO MUCH?



WE MAY BE FINISHED COMPETING BUT MAINTAINING OUR PHYSICAL FITNESS IS A DAILY ACTIVITY, DEVONSHIRE.

PLUS, OUR PACE IS BARELY AT A SLOW JOG. AS YOU MIGHT SAY, SUCK IT UP, BUTTERCUP.

Hey! THAT'S MY LINE!

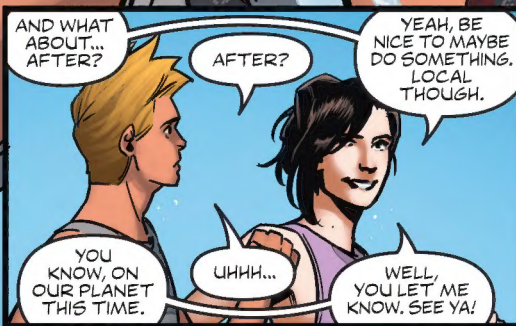
at least there was one thing that made all this lame running tolerable...



HEYA, THEO. HEADED MY WAY?

I AM, FOR TWO MORE WHOLE LAPS TOO.

UGGHH!



AND WHAT ABOUT... AFTER?

AFTER?

YEAH, BE NICE TO MAYBE DO SOMETHING, LOCAL THOUGH.

YOU KNOW, ON OUR PLANET THIS TIME.

UHHH...

WELL, YOU LET ME KNOW. SEE YA!



DID LOUISA JUST ASK THEODORE OUT ON A--

OH YEAAAAHHHH!

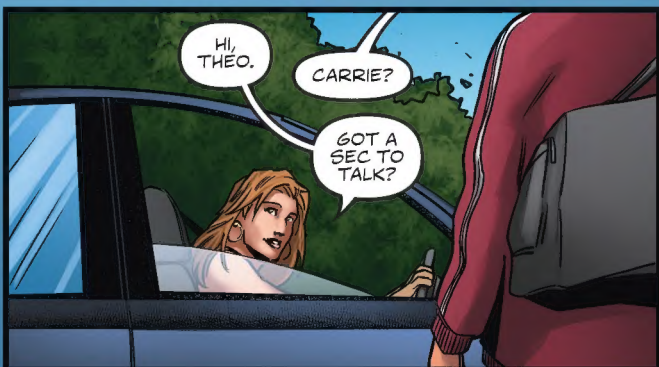


LATER.

HONK HONK

GREAT. AGAIN?!

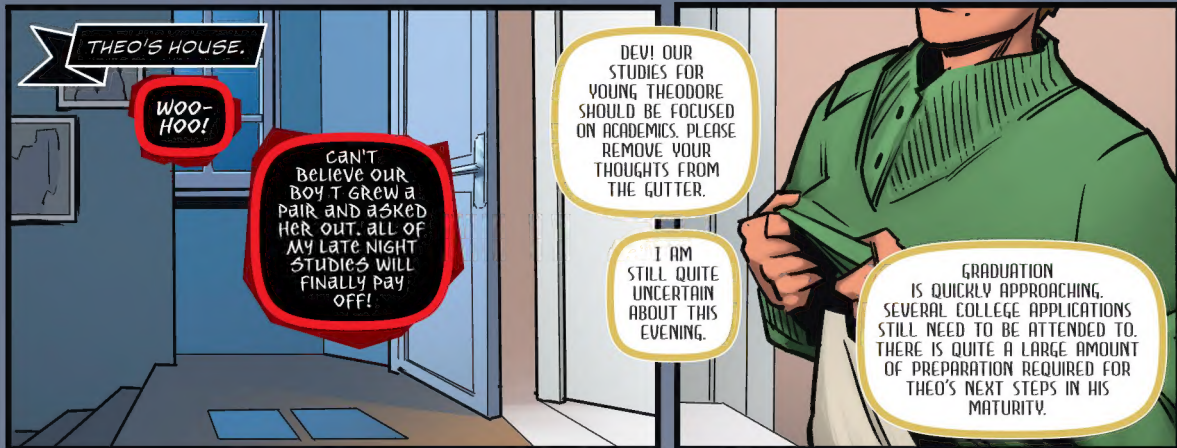
WALKER, WHY DON'T YOU GO--



HI, THEO.

CARRIE?

GOT A SEC TO TALK?



THEO'S HOUSE.

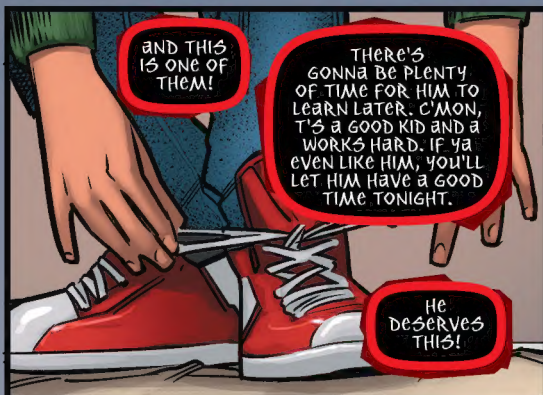
WOO-HOO!

CAN'T BELIEVE OUR BOY T GREW A PAIR AND ASKED HER OUT. ALL OF MY LATE NIGHT STUDIES WILL FINALLY PAY OFF!

DEVI! OUR STUDIES FOR YOUNG THEODORE SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON ACADEMICS. PLEASE REMOVE YOUR THOUGHTS FROM THE GUTTER.

I AM STILL QUITE UNCERTAIN ABOUT THIS EVENING.

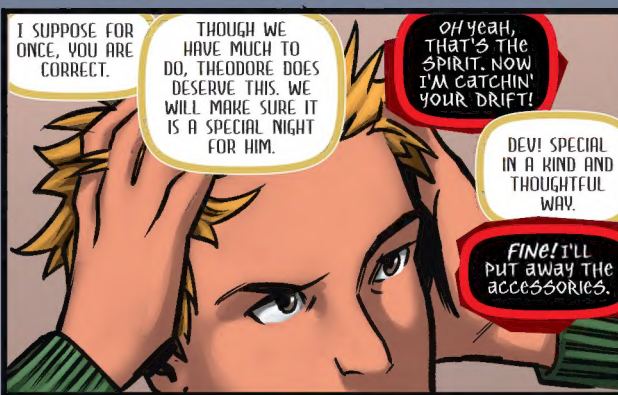
GRADUATION IS QUICKLY APPROACHING. SEVERAL COLLEGE APPLICATIONS STILL NEED TO BE ATTENDED TO. THERE IS QUITE A LARGE AMOUNT OF PREPARATION REQUIRED FOR THEO'S NEXT STEPS IN HIS MATURITY.



AND THIS IS ONE OF THEM!

THERE'S GONNA BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR HIM TO LEARN LATER. C'MON, T'S A GOOD KID AND A WORKS HARD. IF YA EVEN LIKE HIM, YOU'LL LET HIM HAVE A GOOD TIME TONIGHT.

HE DESERVES THIS!



I SUPPOSE FOR ONCE, YOU ARE CORRECT.

THOUGH WE HAVE MUCH TO DO, THEODORE DOES DESERVE THIS. WE WILL MAKE SURE IT IS A SPECIAL NIGHT FOR HIM.

OH YEAH, THAT'S THE SPIRIT. NOW I'M CATCHIN' YOUR DRIFT!

DEVI! SPECIAL IN A KIND AND THOUGHTFUL WAY.

FINE! I'LL PUT AWAY THE ACCESSORIES.



NOK NOK

SAAWEET! SHE'S HERE!



OUR PRINCESS AWAITS!

SHE'S DA ONE, MORPHEUS.

WE'RE GOIN' STAG, RIGHT?

LET'S TAP DAT--

HEY!! GET OUTTA HERE, YA WACKOS!



NOT TONIGHT! IT'S OUR BOY T'S NIGHT AND NOTHING'S GONNA RUIN IT!

SHE LOOKS BEAUTIFUL. SO EXCITING!

HOT DAMN!

HI! YOU READY TO GO?



PERSPECTA.



END OF
SHRUGGED VOLUME 2!